

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXI.]

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MARRIAGE.

On 28th February, at Shanghai, BENJAMIN CHAS. BROOMHALL, F.R.O.S. (Eng.), of Taiyuanfu, Shansi, to MARION ALDWICKLE, of London.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The English Mail of the 10th ultimo arrived per the s.s. *Nubia*, on Friday, the 10th instant.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The entries for the Oxford Local Examinations to be held next July closed at noon on 8th March. One hundred and one candidates (of whom nine were girls) entered, beating the previous record of 94 in 1901. There were 18 Senior, 38 Junior and 45 Preliminary.

The Bank of Japan finds its loans returning on its hands. Its unsecured note-issues are now below the legal limit. The Bank's loans to private individuals total 41 million yen; its loans to the Government, 42½ millions; its note-issues, 247 millions; and its specie reserve 127 millions.

On the 8th March a coolie was set upon by four natives near Ping Shan in the New Territory, who have since been arrested. He sustained severe injuries to his head which necessitated his being brought over to Hongkong in a launch and removed to the Government Civil Hospital.

We are glad to notice that the learned Chief Justice has reconsidered the question of solicitors being allowed to cross-examine debtors at their public examination in bankruptcy. It is not a matter of importance to solicitors only. When we ventured, in a former paragraph, the opinion that His Lordship should reconsider his decision, we pointed out that it was a matter of commercial importance.

China is arming for eventualities that may follow the war. The Chinese army needs more than weapons, however.

The smallpox scare at Shanghai was not so well warranted, according to the statistics published within, as some others have been.

The weather at Hongkong has been exceptionally cold for more than a week. The temperature fell to a little above forty deg. Fahr.

The Chinese priests who are obstructing the enforcement of the Edict providing for schools in the temples (*vide* "Canton") are not good Buddhists.

The appointment of another American consul at Shanghai is taken to mean that ex-Consul General Goodnow did not successfully repudiate the charges brought against him.

The biscuits about which there was much litigation in the Supreme Court on the 7th and 8th instant, were destined for the Baltic Fleet, which failed to come and claim them.

Students of "primeval" religions may be amused by Mr. J. Dyer Ball's hypothesis concerning the round stones at Yaumati. [*vide* "Primeval Worship in China."] There is another explanation.

The farewell speeches to Dr. Atkinson at the Sanitary Board meeting appear under a separate heading. Mr. Rumjahn's compliments came with a good grace, that gentleman being a bit of a "heckler" at times.

The "Interesting Assault Case" fully reported within was a *cause celebre* at Hongkong. White men were not pleased by the Magistrates' way of putting the Chinese coxswain and English Lieutenant on a level.

An opium officer (native) had an unpleasant experience that illustrates the temper of the Chinese in the New Territory—the same people who made arrangements to murder the thousands of unsuspecting picnickers who were going to see the British flag hoisted when that territory was leased. The officer was arresting an opium smuggler, when the friends of the latter attacked him. To prevent him being so sharp-eyed in future, they tried to cut out his eyes.

Why, asks the *Japan Mail*, don't more professing Christians attend public worship? This is a question which certain Japanese Methodists have been asking of late. The answers given, which have been published in full in the Methodist organ, the *Gokyo*, may be summed up in a sentence. The services don't attract most of the people for whose benefit they are held; the doctrines preached are not those which educated men want to hear preached. Dr. Takagi, the editor of the *Gokyo*, observed sometime back that the reasons which keep people away from Church are pretty much the same in Japan as in Europe and America.

Although the industrial record for 1904 in Japan was remarkably satisfactory considering the existence of a state of war, the cotton-spinning industry undoubtedly suffered. Statistics published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce show that whereas the number of working days per month in 1903 was 26.65 on the average, it fell to 25.70 in 1904; the number of working hours per day declined from 21.46 to 20.50, and the average number of workmen diminished from 74,731 to 62,670. These figures, if reduced to per-centages, represent a fall of 2.8 per cent. in days, 4.4 per cent. in hours and 14.8 per cent. in workmen.

Tientsin papers report that the Empress Dowager sent her personal congratulations and presents to Sir Robert Hart on his 70th birthday. Prince Ching and other nobles and high officials following suit.

Wong Kam is a foki in the employ of a shoemaker doing business at Queen's Road West. Wong took a holiday on February 25 to go to the races. When pay day came he found he was short a day's pay, and remonstrated with his master. The master refused to pay Wong for the day he was absent, whereupon a brawl followed in which the foki stabbed his master four times with a knife. He was charged before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court Feb. 28 with assault. Asked if he had anything to say, the defendant said the stabbing was an accident. His Worship was not of this opinion, as it was extremely unlikely that a man would be stabbed four times in succession accidentally. He committed the defendant to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The annual competition of the fire fighting teams for possession of the shield took place at West Point on March 3. His Excellency the Governor viewed the proceedings from an adjacent balcony and amongst others present were Hon. Mr. May and Mrs. May, Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. Shewan, Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Captain Smith and Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson. The ground on which the events took place was a veritable mud puddle, hence the competitors were greatly handicapped, and times are not likely to be very satisfactory. A large crowd of spectators surrounded the square, and the housetops in the vicinity were covered with people. Perhaps the event which most interested the onlookers was the combined wet drill. Water was pumped from the Praya and in a few moments volumes from four hoses were shooting into the air and soon the field was transformed into a miniature lake. While some of the firemen were engaged on this duty, others were running the escape ladders up alongside premises abutting one side of the square and a gallant fireman rushed up this to give an exhibition of life saving from an imaginary fire. Several dummies had been prepared for the purpose. A number of stalwart arms held out a large sheet of canvas on the ground below and dummies were dropped from the roof on to this. Had they been persons escaping from a fire, it would have gone hard with them, as each time the dummies bumped the ground. There were six events on the programme. The shield will either go to Foreman Grant's or Foreman Fenton's team, but the Judges have not yet decided: neither are the times made up in the other events. Messrs. Badeley, Hallifax Baker and Lane superintended the carrying out of the programme. The honour of winning goes to Foreman Grant's team. The teams competing, the order in which they stand and the time in which they performed the various evolutions are as follows:—Foreman Grant's.—Macdonald, O'Sullivan, Lee, Rutledge, Evans, Cooper, Fyfe, Hedge, Counsell, Jones and Sutherland. Time—5 min. 32½ seconds. Foreman Watt's.—Appleton, Fowler, Mills, Murphy, Adlington, Parr, Fox, Winyard, Earnar and Brown. Time—5 min. 39½ seconds. Foreman Fenton's.—Garrod, Watt, Boole, Culliford, Williams, Hayes, Walker, Hedge Spencer, Davitt, and Shepherd. Time—5 min. 56½ seconds.

THE YANGTSE BASIN.

(Daily Press, 7th and 8th March.)

A visit to the ports in the Yangtse basin can hardly fail to convince even the most unbelieving that some progress has really been made towards the regeneration of China. This is shown not only in great things but still more in petty details, and is for the most part accompanied by a sensible improvement in the general condition of the people at large. In the lower river, it is true, there is little external change to be noted; Chinkiang, Nanking, and Wuhu, to the casual passenger present much the same aspect as before; there is a greater number of receiving hulks, but the discomforts of the traveller in landing are much the same as before, and the same tumble-down stores and offices present themselves on his stepping on shore. But even here, owing to the great increase in the traffic, if the same untidiness and malodourousness is to be noticed, there is decidedly more bustle and life. There is little change in the number of the foreigners actually engaged in business, and no sign of the foreigners engrossing any increasing amount of the purely native business, and indeed the foreigners at the ports are for the most part, when engaged in business at all, directly in the employ of the various shipping companies. The foreigners actually resident will in fact be found to belong to two main categories: they are officials engaged in the service of the Imperial Customs or Consuls of the various treaty Powers, or they are missionaries, Roman Catholic or Protestant, the last often exceeding in number all the other foreigners combined.

At some of the ports, notably Wuhu, the first thing to attract the attention of the traveller is the number of foreign buildings capping the various hills and forming conspicuous objects in the landscape. On enquiry most of these will be found to be missionary buildings, either residences or such edifices as hospitals or schools belonging to the various religious denominations; and this advance of the missions is to a visitor one of the most remarkable signs of the times. It seems almost as if one of the dreams of the late ANSON BURLINGHAM was in a fair way of being realised and "the Shining Cross" should gleam from every mountain in the land. More remarkable still is the fact that the innovation excites little remark from the people at large, who have seemingly accepted the inevitable or even look upon it with favourable eyes. High officials openly preside at the inauguration of these edifices and not unfrequently comment upon them in favourable terms. Not unfrequently the local authorities are on terms of personal friendship with the more respected of the local missionary body, and do not hesitate to come to them betimes for advice. Markedly too amongst the people the chance traveller is, in places where but a few years ago he would be addressed in the vilest of language or even openly assailed, now treated with respect or gladly welcomed, and finds every facility offered, so far as the resources of the country extend, to his travelling freely. The fact is, of course, that the native has discovered that the advantages, which for many years he questioned, of "opening up" the country are almost altogether on his side, and that with improved facilities for getting about, and the opening of new markets for his products, he is in a much superior position than formerly. There is no doubt that the missionaries have contributed much towards this, and that the action of the medical missionary and the wide distribution of hospitals, where especially surgical cases

can be treated, has materially improved the condition of the people. On the other hand the ordinary European being more brought in contact with the native, has acquired a better understanding of his good points, so that many of the barriers between the races formerly seemed insurmountable are gradually yielding to better influences on both sides.

The examples of such cities as Shanghai, where, under the control of a regular police, crime is effectually prevented, and where disease is evidently decreasing under improved sanitation, have also not been lost in so practical a people as the Chinese people at large. The enormous traffic carried through its streets without accident or inconvenience, and with the slightest interference with individual liberty, and (to the Chinese mind) the enormous revenues raised without undue pressure has also had its effect on the native officials and slowly but surely the fact is having its effects on the cities of the interior. The late Viceroy of the Liang Kiang set the example of wide macadamised roads in his provincial capitals, and the example is being, albeit at a distance, followed in the other chief cities. Tientsin is also possessed up of a respectable police force fully organised under a foreign chief. It is true this was commenced under the control of the Foreign Commission after the capture of the city, but the fact that it has since been continued under direct native control and without the application of any pressure from without shows how capable of comprehending its utility are the new generation of rulers. In Sochow and Hangchow similar improvements are being gradually introduced, and even in the smaller cities like steps are being taken. Even so remote a city as Ichang has its police force uniformed and numbered; and what is true of police is likewise true of sanitation. The streets left a few years ago to take care of themselves are now in many cases regularly scavenged.

Of more important works in the Yangtze basin, the necessity of water supply is beginning to impress itself in most of the great cities. Shanghai is already supplied, and Nanking is contemplating an expenditure of several millions. Others are only waiting the result to follow. The example of Japan has had in all these cases considerable effect. The present Viceroy of Hupeh has expended millions on the erection of ironworks, and although the financial result has been of the worst, the intention to make the country independent of foreign assistance is one of the most satisfactory issues of the movement. To elevate the nation to a position of independence has been the aim of the present generation of Chinese statesmen, and though it may occasionally lead to friction and misunderstandings, it is on the whole better than the contemptible policy of seeking to play off one foreign Power against another, which was the highest art to which statesmen of the calibre of the late LI HUNG-CHANG could hope to attain.

So much for the lower Yangtze valley. On arrival at Hankow the most casual traveller, if acquainted with the place in former days, cannot fail to be struck with the marked alteration. The first object to be noticed some five or six miles below the junction of the river with the Han is a stone bund in process of construction, and at intervals all the way to the original British Settlement, bunded some 40 years ago, the same process may be noted. The work is done, as it would seem, in different sections and on different plans and is the first apparent evidence of that extraordinary conglomerate of opposing

foreign interests which the Foreign Concessions at Hankow. Here every petty autocrat over his few thousand square metres is a law unto himself and issues proclamations to his own nationals regardless of his neighbour's convenience. Originally, as in many other ports, English and French settlements were laid out. Full of hope as to the individual success of every British merchant, the British Settlement became gradually built over with almost palatial residences, but evil times came along and floods arose and inundated the foreign settlement, and most of the houses disappeared, and foreign owned property was to be had almost for the asking. Then the ecclesiastical establishments came in and occupied the vacant ground, and the place exchanged the cry of the coolie carrying his merchandise, for the drone of the chanter. By and by, with the advent of railways, the hopes of Hankow again revived, and once more was heard the cry of the coolie and the hum of the merchant, and places long vacant were eagerly bought up till the original settlement became too small to hold the applicants. Then Russia and France, and Germany and Japan determined each to be in the new fashion and have its own concession, and as the only place possible was a long strip of a few hundred metres broad along the banks of the Yangtze, the foreign concessions assumed perforce the form of an elongated strip. Finally another piece still lower down the river was taken possession of as a terminus for the railway.

The British Concession has been long covered with buildings; the Russian followed with several factories; the French has a good many completed and more in progress; the German has only just started; and nothing at all has been done on the Japanese. Unfortunately for the effect of the whole, each strives to be complete in itself and meet its own entire wants. A stray dog suspected of being rabid, for instance, wanders into one or other concession. The autocrat of that particular concession issues a muzzling ordinance, and the owners of dogs in the adjoining settlements have, in taking them through the forbidden land, like the Swiss under Gessler, to salute the chapeau of the special autocrat, by muzzling the animal on its passage.

More practical is the Fuhau Railway, intended to effect communication between Hankow and Peking, which is already in partial working order to the Yellow river, where a break of a couple of days intervenes between the river and the northern section. The administration have found it necessary in order to meet the wants of the people to anticipate the completion of the work by carrying goods conjointly with the construction trains. The effect has been the tapping of a fertile district in the north of Hupeh, and a very considerable amount of traffic in commodities such as beans and other produce, which have filled to some extent the void produced by the closing of Newchwang owing to the war.

(To be continued.)

NEW AMERICAN MINISTERS AND CONSULS.

(Daily Press, 9th March.)

The numerous American diplomatic and consular changes which our London correspondent telegraphically reports in this issue have particular interest at this time. With regard to some of them, non-American readers may be inclined to attach special political significance, notably in the ambassadorial change at St. Petersburg; but there is nothing more implied by this transfer than in the others. Periodical games of

"general post" are thus played under the American system, which has been on occasion responsible for the act known as "swapping horses while crossing the stream." The change that may be regarded with a more general interest on this side of the Pacific is the transfer of Minister CONGER from Peking to Mexico. Dr. EDWIN H. CONGER has been American Minister to China since 1898. Like so many American diplomats, he is a combination of soldier and lawyer, having attained the rank of Brevet Major during the Civil War, and afterwards been admitted to the Bar. This did not hinder him from trying farming, stock-raising, and even banking in Iowa, so versatile is the prominent American usually. He was, in addition, State Treasurer and Congressman before he went to Brazil as Minister in 1891. He was the first man to receive a message from the outside world after the trying experiences of the Legations at Peking in 1900, a code inquiry added to the famous despatch from WU T'ING FANG. How well Mrs. CONGER supported him then is also matter of history. To those who may be unaware of the ever increasing American interests in Mexico, it may seem like sending a valuable man away from a storm-centre to a sort of no-man's-land. This appointment to Mexico, however, is a diplomatic "plum" in American estimation. It carries with it a substantial rise in salary—something over \$5,000 more per annum—and implies a very responsible position in a pleasant situation, with the added advantage of being only four days from home. The man who succeeds him at Peking, WILLIAM WOODVILLE ROCKHILL, is a very notable citizen of the United States, and his present appointment was quite anticipated. He has had extensive experience of the Far East, having been the second secretary at the Peking Legation in 1884-5, and first secretary during the three years following. He made two long journeys of exploration in China, Mongolia, and Tibet afterwards, which provided material for several well known books and many short articles. He is also a gold-medalist of the Royal Geographical Society. In addition to high appointments in his own country, he gained much diplomatic experience in Greece, Roumania, and Servia. He visited China not long ago on a special mission connected with the International Bureau of the American Republics. His present appointment as Minister to China is considered a most suitable one, and he is confidently expected to cement the ties which his Government has been at such pains to establish with "stand-offish" China. The consular appointment to Shanghai, where a Mr. RODGER is announced to succeed Mr. JOHN GOODNOW, comes somewhat as a surprise. Those who did not believe that Mr. GOODNOW would be re-instated, fully expected the appointment of Mr. ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE, a Boston and Harvard man who was for a short time acting secretary to the Legation at St. Petersburg, private secretary to his uncle, the American Ambassador to France, in the spring of 1892; and secretary to the American Legation at Vienna in 1893. The new appointee to Shanghai is suspected to be "General" EARL M. ROGER, a soldier-politician who has been interesting himself in recent elections, and whose career has come under the observation of President ROOSEVELT. He was, by the way, A.D.C. to General BRAGG, now the popular American Consul-general at Hongkong, during the War. His real rank in the army is that of Captain. Of the other appointments, that of Mr. ROBERT McCORMICK to France, and

his succession at St. Petersburg by Mr. G. V. L. MEYER, attracts most attention. Mr. McCORMICK, who has been Ambassador to Russia since 1902, was Legation Secretary in London in 1889-92, and Minister to Austria-Hungary prior to his Russian appointment. President ROOSEVELT's dignified and firm stand in connection with the enforced return of the paroled Russian officers of the *Lena*, who decamped from San Francisco, to say nothing of his previous representations over the Kishineff massacres, while unlikely to make Mr. McCORMICK *persona grata* at the Tsar's Court, put him in the position of a person of some importance; and he had to walk warily. His successor, Mr. GEORGE VON Lengerke MEYER, who has been Ambassador to Italy since 1900, and was supposed to be getting rather tired of diplomatic life, has an ambitious wife, who may possibly cause him to cut a figure at St. Petersburg. She was a most influential member of foreign society in Rome. Mr. MEYER is a Bostonian, who was at one time Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Legislators. He is succeeded in Rome by Mr. HENRY WHITE, who has been Legation Secretary in London. The appointment of the Hon. WHITELAW REID to the Hon. JOSEPH H. CHOATE's vacated place at the London Embassy has already been reported. There is also to be a change at the Consulate-General there, the new man being Mr. WYNNE. Mr. WYNNE was made Post-master-General on the death of Mr. PAYNE; and was prominent in the investigation of the alleged frauds in the P.M.G.'s department, which created such a sensation in the earlier days of the ROOSEVELT regime. The new P.M.G., Mr. CORNELIUS, has had a remarkably successful career at New York and Washington, having climbed from the ignoble level of a mere newspaper reporter to such dizzy heights as President's Private Secretary, and chief of the Commerce and Labour Department.

COLONEL YOUNGHUSBAND AND MR. ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

Daily Press, 10th March.

High politics have no concern in the present comments on the third Blue Book containing "Further papers relating to Tibet." It contains much more than there has been time to digest in the brief period elapsed since its arrival in the Colony; but a superficial reading of its more important parts does not suggest much modification of what we have said about the Anglo-Tibet war on previous occasions. Reading the reports and explanations from Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND, we are inclined to the view that the Mission accomplished more than we had given it credit for. The admittedly stupid character of the Tibetans made us fear the necessity would arise to do much of the costly and hard work over again. The Chinese resident at Lhasa, YU TAI, calls them "cunning and insincere to a degree." They are also mulish and absolutely ignorant of outside affairs, and the position is further complicated by Russian intrigue. The BRITISH COMMISSIONER heard that "the DALAI LAMA would never have opposed us if DORJIEFF had not led him to believe that Russian support would be given him." Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND himself reported how "excessively unbusiness like and impracticable" were the Tibetan delegates. Yet in spite of all this, and after almost incredible patience and much diplomacy of the highest type, our Commissioner got not only all he was asked to get, but a little more, the necessity of which

became apparent during the negotiations. When the Tibetans discovered that their braves were by no means so invincible as they had superstitiously imagined, and that the white men, whose overtures they had continuously treated with marked contempt, kept coming on, they awoke to the fact that the situation was serious. They did not yet know how serious, and continued their opposition in another form, that of promising and pleading, and repeating, controverted arguments over and over again. All this, however, scarcely needs repetition. The immediate point is that Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND discovered beyond a doubt that the only thing they really feared was the presence of foreigners in Lhasa. He had orders to go there to conclude a treaty, but he saw enough to satisfy him that the moment he and his men turned their backs on Lhasa, the new treaty would be of no more value than the old. Having got what they wanted, the departure of the invaders, the Tibetans would not anticipate a speedy return, knowing the natural difficulties attending a trip to their fastnesses. With a shrewdness that should redound to his credit, Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND saw a readier and a cheaper means of holding the treaty makers to the agreements they now seemed suspiciously eager to make and be done with. He got them to agree that the Trade Agent at Gyantse should have the right of access to Lhasa, it being understood, doubtless, that his obnoxious presence would not be thrust upon them unless it became necessary to remind them of breaches of agreement. The SECRETARY OF STATE for India, annoyed that a strong man should do something sensible without red-tape preliminaries, and claiming that this matter had been "carefully considered" beforehand, wrote a censorious despatch for which he deserves to be pilloried. What is the "careful consideration" of a stay-at-home mob of yawning officials worth, as compared with the deliberate action of a competent man on the spot? Our contemporary the *Times* remarks:—"That achievement, as Lord Ampthill emphatically states, in the last despatch addressed by the Government of India to the Secretary of State, is 'mainly due to the conspicuous tact, ability, and constancy' displayed by Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND 'during the whole course of his arduous negotiations.' 'If,' continued Lord Ampthill, 'in one particular the Commissioner has failed to earn the approval of His Majesty's Government, we feel confident that when the importance of what he has achieved, taken as a whole, has been more fully realised, His Majesty's Government will not withhold from him a generous measure of approval.' We cannot improve upon the dignified language in which Lord Ampthill thus indirectly rebuked in anticipation the course which the SECRETARY OF STATE for India has chosen to adopt. It will be an evil day for the Empire when Ministers at home shall set about to discourage by churlish strictures the readiness of public servants abroad to assume responsibility in cases of extreme difficulty and urgency. It is this highest form of courage which has helped more than any other quality of our race to build up and preserve the British Empire."

We do hope that an over-anxious dignity will not prevent other influential papers at Home from calling a spade a spade, and so, perhaps, putting a stop to the harmful influence of such official (or officious) meddlers, whose handiwork, we may add, was almost equally apparent in connection with the earliest efforts of our pioneers on the frontier.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(8th March.)

I am not a little astonished to notice that the discussion which took place at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last week has not produced a solitary letter in the newspapers pointing out that the obvious lesson to be learnt from the state of things depicted in the speech of the Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart is that we ought to have representative government in the Colony. In the history of Hongkong how many petitions signed by almost every Britisher in the Colony have been dispatched to the Colonial Office in London demanding, or rather asking to be given "a really effective voice in the management of the Colony's affairs, external or internal"? I have culled the words within the quotation marks from a petition sent in 1894, when, I see, the British community also subscribed to the declaration that "the prosperity of the colony can best be maintained only by the continuance of Hongkong as a free port."

The discussion at the Chamber of Commerce meeting raises both these questions, for the Chamber of Commerce is naturally anxious to know how Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of Fiscal Reform is likely to affect the trade interests of this port. Though we have had a so-called "plebescite" on the Fiscal Question among British subjects in the Colony, and Mr. Chamberlain's proposals have been thereby approved, we have nothing but the vaguest assumption to go upon as to the bearing of the reform on the trade of this port. The topographical fact that Hongkong is situated within the waters of China was the *raison d'être* for the declaration of the freedom of the port, and the strict and vigorous maintenance of that freedom caused Chinese trade to gravitate from Canton to Hongkong. The question for consideration is whether any restrictions placed now upon foreign commerce in this port will tend to divert any part of this trade. Until, however, we know exactly how Mr. Chamberlain's scheme would affect us, speculation along these lines had better be deferred.

But there is one aspect of this question I have never heard touched upon in recent discussions, formal or informal. Has the Government any moral right to change the free character of this port? Mind, I am not arguing one way or the other, but simply putting forward a point which may be raised on the side of "free trade." After the signature of the Treaty of Nanking by which the island of Hongkong was formally ceded to Great Britain, Sir H. Pottinger, the Minister Plenipotentiary, stated in writing to a committee of British merchants that "the British Government holding Hongkong could not in any way disadvantageously affect the external commerce of China, because the English Government had no intention of levying any kind of duties there," and that "Hongkong was merely to be looked upon as a sort of bonded warehouse in which merchants could deposit their goods in safety until it should suit their purposes to send them to a port or place in China for sale." This has been taken to indicate that the free-port character of Hongkong was the preliminary understanding on which the cession of Hongkong was based. Dr. Eitel in a historical sketch of the Colony written some years ago argued from this that the future discontinuance or continuance of the freedom of the port of Hongkong is therefore by no means an open question left to the discretion of the Colonial or Imperial British Governments, but that we are bound to maintain the freedom of the port from all export or import duties of any sort. I disagree with this view on more grounds than one. In the first place the Nanking Treaty, like all other British Treaties with China, contains a most-favoured-nation clause, and I presume that this gives the British Government the same right to impose Customs charges here as the French possess in Indo-China, and Germany at Kiaochow. Another point is that Hongkong now-a-days is not entirely of a bonded-warehouse character but is a manufacturing centre and it would, I take it, be within the competence of the Government to afford local manufactures the same

protection that like goods made in England would receive.

The annual exodus of residents from the Colony to the Homeland has already commenced, and as about every sixth man or woman one meets talks about his or her impending departure, one gains the impression that the exodus this Spring will be larger than usual. With this flight a few years ago used to be associated a crowd of auctions of household furniture, and quite a plethora of houses to let. But times have changed. A family with a desirable house is unwilling now to part with it. If the lease has well-nigh expired, the wary resident sees to it that it is renewed, and lets it furnished during his absence from the Colony whether his holiday be for six months or for twelve or even longer. He thus makes certain that when he returns he will have a house to go into. There are many married couples in the Colony who are anxious to start housekeeping, but find their purses will not run to the rents now asked for "desirable residences." A former resident in the Colony, noticing these complaints, draws attention to the fact that at a public auction recently a house was sold at a figure which at 7½ per cent. gives a rental of \$100 a month, and another at a figure which on the same basis gives a monthly rental of \$62½. The actual rent of the first, I am told, was \$180 a month, and of the second \$100. The moral is obvious.

Anyone who has recently taken a walk over the hills on the Kowloon side, beyond the old city, will have noticed that some very decent roads are being made. I presume that they have been made primarily for military purposes, but they will serve at the same time to make those hills more attractive to the pedestrian who loves a good ramble while the temperature is comfortably cool.

BANYAN

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on March 7th. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present the Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones (Vice-President), the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. F. Clark, Dr. H. Macfarlane, Dr. F. Gröne, Dr. Pearce, Mr. F. J. Badesley and Mr. T. A. Hammer (Secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual reports of the M.O.H., Sanitary Surveyor, and Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, for 1904, were laid on the table.

ANTHRAX AT KENNEDY TOWN CATTLE DEPOT.

Mr. Adam Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, reported as follows:—A case of anthrax occurred in the Kennedy Town Cattle Depot on the night of the 20th February. There is every possibility of the disease having been contracted in the Cattle Depot. The animal, a Chinese bullock, was found dead by the Inspector when the depots were opened in the morning; it was the only one in the shed.

A PEAK NUISANCE ABATED.

Dr. Gröne reported that the condition of the urinal at the Peak, behind the chair-coolie shelter, which was complained of by Mr. E. A. Hewett, is now satisfactory and the water-supply in order.

MINUTE BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

The Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General, minuted:—There is great difficulty in getting the holders of licences for the sale of food outside the market to pay their fees within a reasonable time after the commencement of each quarter and I shall never be able to obtain prompt payment unless delay is punished by withdrawal of the licence. In the markets there are 900 holdings, and all rents are paid by the 8th of the month. Anyone who fails twice has his licence cancelled. This rule had only to be enforced once or twice. There is now no difficulty in collecting rents in time. I suggest the same rule for these licences. The Board might, after due warning, cancel licences of all holders who have failed twice

to pay their fee by the 21st of the first month in each quarter.

The PRESIDENT—I think that after receiving such notice the fees will be paid.

The Registrar General's proposal was carried.

APPLICATION FROM HUNGHOM.

With respect to an application for a modification of the requirements in respect of Nos. 104 to 122, Market Street, Hunghom, the Registrar General minuted:—Refuse. The M.O.H., I understand, is against granting modifications in such cases.

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted:—Grant.

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted:—Grant. The Hon. Registrar General has misunderstood the recommendation of the M.O.H. adopted by the Board, the recommendation being that if the space in the rear is equal to one third of the height of these buildings modification would be granted.

The matter, having been submitted to the Attorney General for an opinion, was deferred.

A MODIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS.

An application for a modification of the requirements, the applicant desiring to erect a latrine in the back-yard of No. 105, Queen's Road West, was granted.

A CONDITIONAL EXEMPTION.

Having reference to an application for a modification of the balcony regulations in respect of nine houses of Marine lot 224 Dr. Clark recommended that the proposed scheme be accepted on condition that lanes, a part of the property, be handed over to the Government to be used as scavenging lanes for all time.

The Registrar General minuted:—Is there any question of exemption from providing a scavenging lane?

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted:—I agree with the M. O. H.

This application, subject to the approval of H.E. the Governor in Council, was approved on the conditions recommended by Dr. Clark.

A FEATHER CURING ESTABLISHMENT.

An application for Nos. 152, 154 and 156, Reclamation Street, Mongkok, to be registered as a feather curing establishment was granted conditionally.

THE SALE OF FOOD.

Applications respecting the sale and preparation of food were treated.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, reported that from analyses in February water from the various public supplies was found to be of excellent quality.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics, for the week ending the 11th February showed the following figures, death rate per 1,000 per annum:—British and foreign civil community, 13.3; previous week, 14.4; corresponding week last year, 15.3. Chinese community, 13.6; previous week, 12.6; corresponding week last year, 12.3.

The PRESIDENT—With reference to the mortality statistics, the Colony has been free of plague for twelve days.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended the 28th February showed that 4,356 houses were treated in the Eastern District.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ended the 4th March showed that 523 rats, including 19 infected, were caught in Victoria; and 263, including 15 infected, in Kowloon.

FAREWELL TO DR. ATKINSON.

At the conclusion of the business at on Mar. 7th Sanitary Board meeting, Colonel Webb said:—If I am in order I should like to make a few remarks before the closing of the meeting. I think the Board should be informed that this will probably be the last time that Dr. Atkinson will sit as president before going home on leave; and I am sure the members will cordially assist with me in wishing you a good voyage and the pleasant holiday which you deserve, for the courtesy and consideration you have always shown us during the term you have presided at our meetings. There have frequently been conflicts on matters before the Board, but by tactful and wise leading, the members have been always brought to the correct conclusion. I wish you good health,

a good voyage and a very pleasant holiday (Applause).

Mr. RUMJAHN—I endorse every word Colonel Webb has said. Your long connection with the Colony befits you to carry out your duties as president of this Board, and has made you an eminent president. We have had much pleasure working with you since the new Public Health and Building Ordinance was enacted. Under your presidency the Colony has at least been saved thousands of dollars in carrying out sanitation, especially with regard to cleansing work. As I understand, it used to cost the Colony \$80,000, but since the work has been under you this has been reduced to \$7,000. I wish you a very pleasant voyage and speedy return (Applause).

Dr. ATKINSON—Thank you very much for your kind words. Since the present Board has been constituted most important work has fallen to it, the carrying out of the new Public Health and Building Ordinance. Since this was enacted it was found impossible to carry out the ordinance as it was at first drafted. Several Committees of the Board sat and considered how it might be made more workable. The result was that the Government passed an amendment ordinance which rendered it possible for the Chinese houses to have at any rate two cubicles on a floor. As the Ordinance was at first arranged it was impossible for many houses to have any cubicles. With a Board constituted such as this, eleven members, one cannot always see alike, but I think that on the whole the work has been carried on harmoniously. I have to thank the Chinese members for persuading the Chinese to cleanse their dwellings more thoroughly. Under Sir Henry Blake the Chinese first realised how important this cleansing was. It was explained to the Chinese what was meant by cleansing their dwellings. This cleansing must be done if we wish to stay plague, and the more this is impressed on the Chinese the better it will be for the Colony. Cleanliness is the bedrock of sanitation. To show that our efforts have met with some success there has been a perceptible diminution in the death rate. The death rate per thousand per annum has diminished among Chinese from 21.93 in 1902 to 17.18 in 1904. Among non-Chinese it has diminished from 19 in 1902 to 12.48 in 1904. In addition to this, measures have been taken by the Government to stop the ravages of malaria by the training of nullahs, removing of undergrowth and the filling in of swamps. The number of malarial patients admitted into the hospitals has diminished from 1,393 in 1901 to 490 in 1904. The number of deaths from this cause has also diminished, from 574 in 1901 to 301 in 1904. There has thus been a marked diminution of malaria and a great saving of human life. Last year there was less plague than any year since 1897, but it is very dangerous to prophesy, because there are many facts about the life history of the plague bacilli of which we are as yet ignorant. If we can only persuade the Chinese to help us in the cleansing I believe and trust that this year you will not have a more severe outbreak than last summer.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Monday, 6th March.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

WONG LUT WAN V. TAM CHAK U.

The hearing of this action was commenced on the 15th September last and was adjourned on the 16th September.

The plaintiff claimed—(1) That specific performance be decreed of an agreement in writing made between the plaintiff (as vendor) and the defendant (as purchaser) on the 28th May 1903 for the sale of certain property registered in the Hongkong Land Office as "the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 1216," subject to a certain indenture of mortgage registered in the Land Office by Memorial No. 29,392, and to the payment of \$27,500 portion of the principal sum of \$100,000 and the interest thereon thereby secured. (2) That the defendant be ordered to pay

plaintiff \$5,000 damages. (3) For such further relief as the Court should deem meet.

The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Almada e Castro for the defendant.

The defendant's counsel (Mr. M. W. Slade) at the previous hearing claimed the right to begin, and the plaintiff's counsel concurred. The defendant stated that when the contract was made, the property was misrepresented to him. It consisted of six houses in Richmond Terrace, which the defendant agreed to buy for \$61,500. It was stated that the property was at that time let for \$650 per month, but this afterwards proved to be false. The defendant did not inspect the houses till after the sale.

The plaintiff stated that in the middle of May 1903 he entrusted the property in question to a broker, with permission to sell at \$70,000. At the end of the month the broker met the defendant and mentioned the property to him. The defendant inspected the property. Only one house was then occupied, the rental being \$96 per month, but another house was let for \$110. Later the defendant saw the broker and offered \$60,000, and, with the plaintiff's consent, a bargain was finally struck at \$61,500. Nothing about the rental was mentioned.

It was stated in evidence that the houses were situated in a fever district, and it was difficult to let them on this account.

The defendant's case was that he was induced into the contract by fraud, the rental at \$650 appearing in the preliminary agreement. At first the rental was not stated, and defendant pointed this out to the broker. The broker went back to the plaintiff and "rental, \$650" was added.

The plaintiff, on the other hand, brought evidence to prove that the words "rental, \$650" were not on the document when it was handed to the defendant. They had been added, and the defendant was uttering a forgery.

Hon. Mr. Sharp called the head Chinese, writer of the Registrar General's Office, to compare the writing of the body of the document in question with the words relating to rental.

Mr. Pollock objected to this man's evidence being received as expert evidence, and the Chief Justice held with him till Mr. Sharp showed that his witness was employed in the Registrar General's Office distinguishing, by comparisons of handwriting, whether certain documents were genuine.

Witness, Au Fung Chee, said the handwritings were different, the characters for "rental, \$650" being an imitation of the style of the document.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—I shall not ask your Lordship to state that someone has committed a forgery, but will ask if the defendant has proved his case.

His Lordship—The strongest point against the defendant is the great difference between the real rental and that on the document. The broker may have added the words.

Hon. Mr. Sharp produced specimens of the broker's handwriting which witness said were quite different from the added words. The broker's handwriting was a "coolie's"; the man would not be capable of adding the words.

Mr. Pollock drew attention to differences, similar to those pointed out by witness, in writing admitted to be that of one person.

His Lordship—The only question is, were these words added for the purposes of this case.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—That is so, My Lord. The defendant and the broker were faced. The latter said he never said the houses were let for \$650, and the defendant said that this was false.

The case was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

Mr. E. J. Grist appeared on behalf of Boothia Singh, an Indian watchman employed at Kowloon, who sued Yeung Ah Fat, bar-boy at the Police Station, for \$181. A promissory note for \$150 was produced, the balance being interest due on same. Defendant stated that the plaintiff lent him \$100 on condition that he

signed a promissory note for \$150. He paid interest for eight months, \$80 in all. The interest claimed was due.

Judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Tuesday, 7th March.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

WONG LUT WAN V. TAM CHAK U.

The hearing of this action was concluded.

The plaintiff claimed—(1) That specific performance be decreed of an agreement in writing made between the plaintiff (as vendor) and the defendant (as purchaser) on the 28th May 1903 for the sale of certain property registered in the Hongkong Land Office as "the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 1216," subject to a certain indenture of mortgage registered in the Land Office by Memorial No. 29,392, and to the payment of \$27,500 portion of the principal sum of \$100,000 and the interest thereon thereby secured. (2) That the defendant be ordered to pay plaintiff \$5,000 damages. (3) For such further relief as the Court should deem meet.

The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Almada e Castro for the defendant.

Evidence concluded, Hon. Mr. Sharp, on behalf of the plaintiff, said:—Nothing has occurred during the course of the evidence to modify the case. The *onus probandi* is very important in all cases, such as this, in which the evidence is conflicting. The *onus probandi* here is on the defendant, who admits wholly the contract mentioned in the statement of claim. That which he says is that he was induced to enter into this contract, and he must establish this. The defendant's case is that he was induced to sign this agreement by the misrepresentation that the houses were at that time let for \$650. As corollary he has to deny that he inspected the property before signing the agreement, because the houses were in fact empty. If he inspected the houses he knew the facts, he could not say that he believed that the houses were let. The property, the defendant says, was only let for \$200 whereas it was stated to be let for \$650. Therefore an important point in this case is the point of these inspections before the agreement was signed. There is conflicting evidence. If the question of that document stood alone, I could not prove who wrote the additional words (words relating to rental on the preliminary agreement). The real point in this case is the visits and inspections which were made by the defendant, as I think we have proved.

His Lordship—A cursory examination would not be sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—If he went through the houses he knew whether they were occupied or empty. I do not say he valued the property, but a man could not go through that row of houses without noticing whether they were occupied or not. If there had been sufficient evidence that the man did not inspect the houses I should not be surprised in Your Lordship finding for the defendant; I think, however, there is evidence here to form a contrary opinion. I think Your Lordship can only put limited importance on the evidence I brought regarding that document. The defendant has denied every interview for, I submit, the purposes of this case. If Your Lordship comes to the conclusion that these inspections were in fact made the defendant was speaking what was not true, and no court could take any part of his evidence—he denies every interview till the time of the agreement.

Hon. Mr. Sharp then reviewed the evidence, and said: It is overwhelmingly in favour of the supposition that the defendant inspected the property. It was a contract of \$61,500, and the property was extremely conveniently situated. I put it that it is absurd to believe that this man would buy this property without inspection. I have never heard of a Chinaman buying property without inspection; it is well known that they

do not do it—they are a great deal too sensible. Taking into consideration the conflict of evidence there must have been perjury, but I will not ask your Lordship to commit my friend's witnesses for perjury, and, if you find for him, I am sure he will not ask your Lordship to commit my witnesses for perjury. The question is, has the defendant satisfied your Lordship on the point at issue? The defendant's case is that he insisted the rental must be inserted in this comparatively unimportant preliminary document. Why did he not have it put in the agreement? That is a significant point, because he perfectly well knew that no such insertion had been made. As a matter of fact, "existing tenancies" under the special condition of the agreement, is the only thing struck out. It is clear, therefore, that existing tenancies formed no essential part of this document. That the plaintiff represented these houses as let when they were not is improbable. It is most improbable that he would do such a suicidal thing, for the purchaser would discover the fraud at once, or, at any rate, the seller would naturally expect it. To say all these houses were let when the man had only got to go and look would be absurd. The price of \$61,500 would be an absurd price if the property was bringing in \$650. If it was bringing in \$650 it would be worth well over \$100,000. And if the plaintiff had to alter the order he would not have added a clause; he would have written a fresh one—it is not as though it was a very lengthy document. I submit to Your Lordship that you cannot, in the face of all the direct evidence, be satisfied that the defendant has satisfactorily discharged the *onus probandi* which rests on him. It is immaterial to decide who wrote these words if Your Lordship is satisfied that the defendant inspected this property. It cannot be said that he entered into this agreement believing that the property was let for \$650. I think we have established that in fact the defendant inspected the property and knew all about it before he signed the agreement. I therefore ask Your Lordship to find for the plaintiff.

Mr. Pollock on behalf of the defendant, said:—In the first place I would desire to impress on the attention of the Court that the very face of the plaintiff's case really involves a charge of forgery against my client. The very case as presented to the Court involves in effect an allegation that either the defendant himself made a forgery by adding these additional words without the consent of the plaintiff, or he got some employee to do it, which would make the defendant more to blame in involving someone else. It is distinctly laid down (Carr on fraud) that the law in no case presumes fraud in any doubtful matter. Fraud could not be assumed on doubtful evidence. Fraud must be clearly established, *a fortiori*, should it be acted on by the court in a case which not only involves fraud, but fraud of the most serious kind, viz., fraud involving the crime of forgery. Having made that preliminary observation I will pass on to the witnesses who have given evidence, as a general observation leaving out the expert who does not give evidence to fact but to theory—they are all interested witnesses and are therefore interested to give evidence on behalf of the plaintiff and in support of the plaintiff. The first witness was the plaintiff himself. Whatever Mr. Hazeland may have said about the value of the property, the plaintiff is very anxious to get the defendant to take it at the price mentioned. The broker has been shown decidedly to be an interested party. He said "my commission was to be 1½ per cent., but payable on completion." And the gardener was still in the employ of the plaintiff, and had received a rise of wages. The additional characters must have been added by someone, and I would ask Your Lordship to state that the plaintiff added them; and if the plaintiff added these words in the contract no question of any forgery can arise. Would the defendant have added these characters before the signing of the contract?

Hon. Mr. Sharp—Yes, for a possible way of getting out of the contract if he so desired.

Mr. Pollock—I would ask if that would be probable; and ask if the plaintiff did not write in these words, disguising his own handwriting (Laughter).

His Lordship—I am not smiling in derision, but in amusement. It is just as reasonable to

infer that what you say is true as that the defendant put them there as a possible way out of the contract.

Mr. Pollock—There was every reason for him doing so, because the property did not let for \$650, which the plaintiff could not have substantiated. That is a reason for the plaintiff writing in a feigned hand. The defendant was a somewhat speculative man, and he rose to the bait. He said "That is a very good thing for my money; I will close at once," and he did so without inspecting the property. Can it be supposed that the defendant, no matter how skilful, could insert characters that the plaintiff could not detect. Before the contract was signed it is clear that the plaintiff must have seen these added words. Mr. Almada e Castro said, in effect that the plaintiff wanted \$63,000 for the property. The defendant said "Is this not your order for \$61,500." The plaintiff looked at the order and said "Yes." Again, it would have been a very hazardous thing for anyone to attempt to forge the plaintiff's writing. The figures \$650 must have been added by someone, and only one or two persons would have been likely to quote that figure—either the plaintiff or the broker. The defendant quoted the figure to Mr. Almada e Castro to show that he was making a good bargain. The plaintiff is anxious to part with the property owing to the feverish nature of the locality. These houses were vacant before the contract of sale, and have been vacant ever since. At the present day all these houses are vacant. The property has not been well let for the last three or four years. It is all very well to value bricks and mortar if no one will live there. Mr. Belilos' house cost \$400,000, but no one would ask for that. Its worth is in proportion to what it will bring in. If you cannot let the houses they are worth nothing. A European would have inspected the property, but a Chinaman—they are so very speculative—would not have one so if he saw a good thing; he would snap at it. If the defendant had gone up to the property, he certainly would not have purchased it. Of the six houses only No. 1 was let, No. 6 was about to be let, and Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 had been vacant for some months. He would have found that the houses would only bring him in \$196 per month. In conclusion, I think I have been able to show on behalf of the defendant, good grounds that these words were inserted by the plaintiff and before the signing of the contract.

His Lordship—I think that as the interest involved are so considerable I shall take some time to consider my judgment, which I shall give with reasons at a later date.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

MUTUAL STORES V. TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

This was a claim for \$117.60. Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared on behalf of the plaintiffs, and Mr. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendants.

The facts of the case as stated by the plaintiffs' solicitor were that the plaintiffs purchased 25 cases of preserved sugarcorn from the Californian Fruit Canning Association. A part of the cargo was delivered on or about February 3rd, 1904. The plaintiffs' godown man tendered at the defendants' godown and received eleven cases only. The defendants' godown man informed him that the other 14 cases were short landed, and gave a short delivery order acknowledging the non-delivery of 14 cases. The plaintiffs then awaited the arrival of this cargo. As they had heard nothing by the end of August, the plaintiffs sent in a claim for the value of the corn. The defendants in the course of some correspondence referred to the 14 cases of corn, asking the plaintiffs why they had not taken delivery. That was the first notification the plaintiffs had received of the arrival of the corn. They inspected it and found it in such a state that it would have been unwise to have taken delivery. They refused to do so—hence the action.

The case was adjourned.

Wednesday, 8th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

MUTUAL STORES V. TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

This, a claim for \$117.60, commenced on 7th March, was concluded. Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared on behalf of the plaintiffs, and Mr. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendants.

J. B. Smith, commission agent, and F. C. Man Fung, manager of the Mutual Stores, gave evidence on behalf of the plaintiffs. It was the practice of large shipping companies to give notice to consignees on the arrival of short landed cargo. The former witness said there was considerable risk in taking canned goods cargo if the tins were rusty. The contents would be all right, but the goods would be unsaleable.

Mr. Bailey—The plaintiffs are relying entirely on the grounds of the absence of notice. The defendants' case is that notice was given, but even if the plaintiffs received no notice it is the custom of the port not to give notice, though many steamship companies do give notice.

H. A. Burke, second shipping clerk of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, said:—Goods consigned to the plaintiffs were shipped in San Francisco by the *Nippon Maru*, but this ship was taken up by the Japanese Government when she arrived at Kobe. The goods were therefore booked by the *Shawmut*. They appeared on the *Shawmut's* manifest, but the 14 cases were short shipped and sent on by the *Olympia*. I put a notice in the newspaper saying that if damage to goods was not claimed for by the 8th February claims would not be entertained. The first intimation I received of any short cargo was in the latter part of August. Altogether there were 7,000 cases short shipped by the *Shawmut* which came on by the *Olympia*, and all these goods have been taken delivery of without notice. On the 22nd March, desiring to get godown space, I sent our godown man to give notice to the plaintiff to take delivery of his 14 cases. Consignees are occasionally given notice that short landed cargo has arrived, for the shipowner's own convenience. A consignee should be sufficiently interested in his cargo to find out whether his goods have arrived. The plaintiffs have on another occasion taken delivery of a case of asparagus and a case of milk without notice. The custom of the port is that the consignees ought to enquire for their short landed cargo.

His Honour—It seems very unreasonable.

Witness continuing—On 12th February the goods were surveyed by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas.

Cross-examined—I understand a bill of lading. The "consignees notice" means notice of the arrival of the ship. I knew the nature of the goods. I do not think it was my duty to notify the plaintiffs; they had been verbally notified that the goods would arrive by the *Olympia*; I thought the plaintiffs were leaving the goods there for their own convenience. We had the goods surveyed by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas for our own protection, because considerable damage had been done during the transshipment of the cargo at Kobe. We did not tell the owners of the goods that they were being surveyed, because there was a lot of transshipment cargo destined for other ports. These notices (produced) are from our company, but they are original shipment notices.

Mr. Stevenson—*Maskee*; do you not think it would have been more reasonable to give notice to the shipper of the cargo?

Witness—No, but we often do give notice for our own convenience.

Re-examined—No notice relating to short delivery cargo was put in the newspapers. A man is supposed to send in a claim within a reasonable time so that if there are any goods short we can try and trace them.

L. Lewis, chief clerk of the P. & O. office, said:—If consignees are notified in a daily paper and short delivery of cargo is given it is not the custom of the port to give notice, but as a matter of fact sometimes notice is given for the shipowner's

convenience, when goods are blocking up the godown.

Cross-examined—Notice would not be given in the case of short delivery cargo.

Mr. Stevenson produced a notice from the P. & O. Company.

Witness—This is a notice for cargo returned. Mr. Stevenson—But it says "short delivery; I should like Your Lordship to read this notice.

Witness—It is customary for consignees to enquire about goods, and send in claims within a reasonable time.

Two Chinese godown men in the employ of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha gave evidence.

His Honour in giving judgment said:—In this action the plaintiffs claim from the defendants \$117.60 for their neglect in not duly forwarding to them 14 cases of sugar corn which had been short landed. It appears that the plaintiffs, the Mutual Stores, ordered from a certain association in San Francisco some goods through their agent in the Colony, Mr. Connell. These goods were shipped subsequently on board the *Nippon Maru*; and when the *Nippon Maru* got to a port in Japan she was commandeered by the Japanese Government for naval purposes and her cargo, including these goods, was transhipped on to another ship. It was supposed that all these goods were transhipped in the *Shawmut*, but it turned out that they were not all on that ship. Some came down subsequently in the *Olympia*. Now, when the *Shawmut* arrived in this Colony a notice was inserted in the newspaper informing the consignees that goods transhipped from the *Nippon Maru* to *Shawmut* had arrived and were being put into the godown at Kennedy Town, and could be obtained from here or from lighters. A notice was put in the paper that consignees should take delivery before the 6th February, and would be charged rent afterwards, and the shipowner would not be responsible for fire risks, and no claims would be entertained after the 8th February. That in fact was a notice that these goods were in the Colony. The notice seems to have been specially to consignees, and not to persons who took cargo from consignees. The Mutual Stores were not consignees, so as between the parties in this action the bill of lading plays no part. The plaintiffs went to the defendants' godown on the 3rd February having previously obtained a delivery order from the consignee, Mr. Connell, to get 25 cases of sugar corn; but, on arriving at the godown, they found only eleven cases had come, and the other 14 cases had not been landed. The defendant's godown keeper gave the plaintiff a note that 14 cases had been short landed, and this note was made out to the Mutual Stores. Now what is the effect of that contract; these persons say that you admitted on the 3rd February your liability when you state that 14 cases of your sugar corn ought to have been landed. It was not landed; and there is an admission by the defendants that they should have landed these 14 cases of sugar corn. The plaintiffs say "We waited and waited for these things; and on the 26th August, not having heard of them, sent in a claim for the value of the goods." The defendants did not reply till three weeks later when they wanted the plaintiffs to take delivery of these goods which the plaintiffs refused to do because they were no good for purposes of sale. The defendants, the plaintiffs say, are in fault because they did not take delivery of these goods before. They say "It was not our duty to tell you that these goods arrived, and if it was we did so on the 22nd March." The evidence on that point is that of Mr. Burke and the godown keeper. Mr. Burke said "I told our godown man to tell them about these 14 cases." This godown man goes to the Mutual Stores and asks them to take delivery of cargo out of the *Olympia*. I asked him if he said anything else at all and he said "No." Then I said "Did you say nothing about these 14 cases," and he answered "Yes." He was given every opportunity, and I cannot therefore take his statement. So I consider he did not give the plaintiffs notice on the 22nd March, except that he gave a general notice. He said the *Olympia* had arrived, and that was not special notice that these goods had arrived. On the 5th January Mr. Burke took this godown keeper to the Mutual Stores, and told him to point out the person to whom he gave notice and

be pointed to Mr. Mau Fung, but in the witness box he said "I did not point out that man to Mr. Burke." I take Mr. Burke's word against that of the Chinese. He had pointed him out, but on the evidence I cannot come to any other conclusion than that he made no communication that these 14 cases arrived by the *Olympia*. It is quite clear that there was no notice to the plaintiff before the 17th September, and that was certainly a very recent date. I come to the question of: was it the duty of the defendant to give notice that these things were in the godown? I take it there must be some difference made between goods ordinarily landed and goods short landed. I think it unreasonable to expect that a consignee to whom you have admitted your indebtedness of short landed cargo should be expected to constantly make enquiries and waste time finding out constantly whether these goods have arrived. The question of making allowance on account of the *Nippon Maru* being taken up by the Japanese Government was not raised, and I am not going to consider it. I am going to take the line of a steamship company which ought to deliver goods in one lot, but fails in this duty, and having failed in this does not give notice that these cases have been landed. *Prima facie*, under these circumstances it seems that a reasonable duty is cast on the shipping company to give notice of the arrival of short landed cargo. There is not a shadow of doubt that such notice was never given. Contrary to the reasonableness of the whole transaction, I am told that the custom of this port is that shipping lines should in no case of the arrival of short landed cargo give notice to the persons to whom the cargo belongs, and that the usual course of business here is for the persons to whom cargo belongs to continually go to the shipping company to find out whether their goods have arrived. Proof offered to me that there is no custom of such notice is the evidence given by Mr. Lewis of the P. & O. Company. Well, his evidence goes so far as this:—he knows of no regular fixed custom for shipping lines to give notice of the arrival of short landed cargo, but he might say that if it was convenient to the shipping line to get the goods off their lighters they did send out notices saying that these goods had arrived; but I should be very loth to take, from the mouth of that witness only, proof of the custom of the port. I should want more than one witness to establish the custom of the port. On the other hand, there is no direct evidence of a gentleman from one of the shipping companies, but there is evidence of a gentleman who has transactions with shipping offices, and is constantly the consignee or owner of cargo, and has specific instances of notices concerning cargo ordinarily and short delivery cargo. I have not only the evidence of this gentleman saying that such is the practice, but also the evidence of Mr. Mau Fung as far as he knows. The whole thing comes to this:—nothing regarding the custom here in this respect has been proved. I am therefore thrown back on what is the more reasonable, whether a shipping company not having delivered goods a part of a bill of lading should give notice when the goods arrive, or whether the consignee should be obliged to make enquiries. It seems to me reasonable and good sense that notice should be given. Consequently, I think the shipowner in such case should give notice. I come to the question of whether these men can recover the damages they claim, as they are not party to the bill of lading, and I think they can, the defendants having admitted them to be the owners of the goods. There seems to be no question as to the amount of damages, and I accept the evidence of Mr. Mau Fung that the goods were in such a state as to be unsaleable. I accept that statement as good evidence, and I think the amount of damages sustained is the market price of the goods in Hongkong when the plaintiffs first sent in a claim to the defendants, and of which no notice at the time was taken. I have no hesitation in giving judgment for the plaintiff at the rate he claims.

CARMICHAEL AND CLARKE V. W. POWELL, LD.

The plaintiffs sued the defendants for \$500, being a fee for supplying a valuation of Messrs. More and Seimund's business. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for

the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. J. Stephens for the defendants.

Mr. Stephens asked that the matter be referred to the Registrar, as the defendants admitted that a certain sum was due. The defendants said the claim was excessive; the plaintiffs were willing to pay a fair sum. The stock list took up 38 foolscap pages; it would be much better to refer the matter to the Registrar.

Mr. Grist—It is the question of a man's fee; it is not a question for the Registrar.

His Honour—We will get on with the case.

Mr. Grist—It appears that the plaintiff in this case was employed by the defendant to make a valuation of a ship-chandler's business. At the time Messrs. Powell and Company were thinking of taking over the business. The plaintiffs valued the stock and spent considerable time over it. The defendants offered the plaintiffs \$300, \$350, \$400 and \$450, and finally paid \$400 into court.

H. F. Carmichael gave evidence. He had made the valuation in accordance with an agreement made with Mr. Gaskell, and had employed Mr. Galt to assist him in valuing the stock, which included the valuing of a steam launch. A hundred dollars was the usual charge for surveying and valuing a steam launch. He had been verbally offered \$500 by Mr. D. Macdonald, and he understood that Mr. Macdonald was acting on behalf of Mr. Gaskell.

A. H. Skelton, of Messrs. Lane, Crawford and Company, gave an opinion that \$500 was a reasonable charge. He had valued stocks for fire insurance companies, and charged as much as \$100 for an afternoon's work.

H. Eyre, manager of the defendant firm, said he thought the price was exorbitant. In answer to His Honour he said "prices are a little higher at Hongkong than at Home."

In giving judgment His Honour said that the defendants must have believed that Mr. Carmichael was competent or they would not have employed him to do the work. It was a pity that nothing was arranged beforehand about the fee; and was also regrettable that there was no scale of fees to guide the Court in this matter. Mr. Skelton thought the work was worth the money. Judgment for the plaintiffs with costs.

Thursday, 9th March.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE)

Warrants were issued for the arrest of the debtors in the following cases, in which the debtors failed to appear:—Loong Sing ex parte Pun Tak Hang; and Pang Hang Shek (Yan Shang) ex parte Cheung Yam Chun.

At the conclusion of the bankruptcy proceedings, His Lordship said:—The last time I sat here, I held that solicitors were not entitled to take part in public examinations. I think I was right, but to uphold that view would be to exclude solicitors from a voice in this Court. I think, therefore, that members of the bar are entitled to speak for creditors in the Court. Solicitors in this Colony have no right under the Ordinance to cross-examine at public examinations as is the case in England. In the Ordinances of this Colony there is no such provision; but it has evidently been supposed that they had a right. Therefore, I am willing to allow it. Solicitors will be allowed to take part in the proceedings in future. I make this explanation in view of what I said last time.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE HEP LOONG V. WEISMANN, LD.

This was a claim for \$648 for biscuits supplied. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Brutton's office) appeared for the plaintiff shop, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. instructed by Mr. Almada e Castro for the defendant company.

Mr. Goldring said:—In this action the plaintiff claims \$648 due for 200 tins of biscuit supplied by the plaintiff to the defendant, altogether 10,800 lbs. of biscuits at \$648. The

facts are that on the 16th December last the compradore of the defendant company sent a *foki* around to the plaintiff shop and asked the manager to see him. The manager went around, and the compradore asked him what quantity of biscuits of a certain kind he could supply. He said 50,000 lbs. in a month at 6½ cents per lb. This was accepted, and the plaintiff then went on baking biscuits, and on the following day Mr. Weismann came around and inspected some of the biscuits, and signified his approval of them. On the 18th December, the following day, Mr. Weismann called and took samples of the biscuits which were marked in Chinese ink by the manager. On the 20th December 200 tins of biscuits were delivered on the Praya to the defendant; the tins contained 54 lbs of biscuit each. These biscuits were soldered up in tins. These tins were examined by Mr. Weismann in the presence of the plaintiffs' manager, and were found not to be according to the quality, but the defendant refused to take delivery. The plaintiff then took them back. On the 22nd December, Mr. Weismann called in person at the plaintiff shop and interviewed the manager with the assistance of a European interpreter, and offered to take the rejected biscuits at 5½ cents per lb. provided that he had the right to make a selection from the rejected biscuits, and biscuits being baked. After some discussion the original order was amended, and the plaintiff received an order for 15,000 lbs. of biscuits at six cents per lb., it being provided that the defendant or his representative should be permitted to select the biscuits. On the 30th December, Mr. Weismann and another European called at the plaintiff shop at eight o'clock in the morning, and at their request the plaintiff unpacked the tins. Biscuits from 200 tins were put into baskets in the shop, and the defendant started to pick out biscuits from these baskets. At nine o'clock Mr. Weismann left, leaving a European baker in charge. The biscuits were pointed out by the European and the plaintiffs' *foki*, who put them in tins which were soldered up by the employees of Mr. Weismann, working on the Hep Loong premises. This was continued all day till eleven o'clock at night. During the whole of that time either Mr. Weismann or another European was present selecting biscuits, and the tins were marked in German by one or the other of them. The tins were left in the shop till the 31st. December, when 45 tins were delivered to the defendant at Blake Pier, and the balance on the 2nd January at the same place. On the 3rd January Mr. Weismann and his baker called and after examining the remaining biscuits in the baskets refused to take delivery of them. The other biscuits were sent to Singapore by the defendant company, where they remained some time, and arrived back yesterday. The defendant refused to pay for 10,800 lbs. of biscuits at six cents per lb.

The Court adjourned before the plaintiffs' case was concluded.

PRIMEVAL WORSHIP IN CHINA.

LECTURE BY MR. J. DYER BALL.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball on March 5 lectured at the Y.M.C.A. rooms on "the primeval conception of God in China, and the primitive religions of the Chinese." He said that the Chinese language in its hieroglyphic characters afforded not a few pictures of the dead past. Dr. Legge, late professor of Chinese at Oxford, and for many years a resident at Hongkong, had quarried out several of the primitive ideas of the Chinese on such matters. By these characters it was discovered that the ancient Chinese had ideas of a spiritual being and of nature worship. Then a fear of the dead led to worship. The early Chinese were very mixed in their ideas. Monotheistic in the belief of one supreme ruler, but also polytheistic to a certain extent, for, below this Supreme Ruler, were a host of spirits which were also worshipped. The idea which the Chinese mind had perhaps always held was that of a hierarchy, presided over in their earlier conceptions by one head with numerous subordinate ranks of executive officers, or administrators of the different branches of the universe; and a worship, described as an inferior worship, has been paid to them all.

A thousand years passed away from this prehistoric period (Fu-hsi), and but little was known of what occurred during the interval. One thing might be predicted of it:—that worship solidified into methods of performing it. The worship of the Supreme Ruler was practically restricted to the Emperor, along with the worship of his ancestors and other objects of adoration; the common people had that of their ancestors and to this added hosts of spirits and idols and other objects. Worship occupied a curious position, for, with slight exceptions, the adoration of this sovereign being was only performed by the Emperor himself. It was a state religion, high above that of the common people. In striking contrast to other classical nations of antiquity, the Chinese had been a pure nation as far as their religion was concerned.

Buddhism had a great influence on Chinese life, customs and religion since its appearance in China shortly after the Christian era.

The Chinese dragon had doubtless its origin in one or some of the zoological monsters of by-gone ages. In the present day it seemed to be mixed up with serpents, and even small snakes. A small temple, in Chao-chao-fu, 35 miles from Swatow, had a snake kept in it. At the present time, when a small snake was caught in a river it was worshipped as the rain-sending dragon, and high officials asked for a recognition of it by the throne.

Smooth round stones were often placed at the foot of a banyan tree and worshipped. In a small shrine in a shop near the police station at Yaumati a number of these stones could be seen. It was suggested that the adoration of stones had arisen from the ancient worship of mountains and hills.

There was no doubt that for two thousand years many fantastic and gross superstitions had been growing in China when Confucius appeared on the stage. It was against these that Confucius said "Respect the spirits but keep aloof from them." His idea was that superstition was best combatted by taking no notice of it.

Notwithstanding the advent of Buddhism with its atheistical originality in its conceptions; of Taoism, with its original system of philosophy; and of Confucianism, the founder of which admitted that he knew nothing of the future—the old world cult, ancestor worship, had held its own and grown stronger and more binding on the masses of the people than in bygone days.

"OLD HONGKONG."

The Rev. T. W. Pearce on the 9th inst. delivered a very interesting lecture on "Old Hongkong" to members of the Union Church Literary Club. He said that the name "Hongkong" meant pleasant port or port of fragrant streams. There was no evidence that the Chinese named Hongkong. What the Chinese called Hongkong was the port of Aberdeen. Why this place was called the port of fragrant streams was a question; the smell there was decidedly fishy (laughter). But the Chinese did call that place Hongkong, and still called it so. How did the whole island come to be called Hongkong? It was a fact that European vessels went to Aberdeen to take in water from a not very fragrant, but fresh water stream—the brook flowing by the paper mill. It is probable that these people were told that the place was called Hongkong, and the name thus became applied to the whole of the island. The Chinese, though, had names for the different parts of the island. The northern part was called Petticoat String. Why? A lady with a poetic inclination had attempted to answer this question in an advertisement book of one of the steamship companies. She said the roads looked like ribbon bound around the hill-side. In the old days Hongkong, from the other side of the harbour, looked very much like what the Kowloon side of the harbour looks like to-day from the Hongkong side. There was then one road around the northern side. Toilers of the sea used to tow their junks there. That was where Des Vaux Road and a part of Queen's Road were now. From the opposite shore, that road was a white

mark, and the Chinese, perhaps, thought that it looked like a petticoat string.

Hongkong was a wooded island, the lecturer said, at the end of the thirteenth century. There was primeval forest on both sides of the harbour. The hills of what is now known as Hongkong Island were used as places for the pirates to keep a lookout from—"the man who puts up signals about incoming steamers, you see had his predecessors" (laughter) predecessors, though, keeping a lookout for less peaceful purposes. About 100 years ago a celebrated pirate had his lookout stationed there.

Speaking about crime, Hongkong, at a later date, during the British occupation, had been a notorious place for robbery. The Chinese made use of the European drains to enter and rob houses. Robbers in this way got into the Bank of India, at Hongkong, and succeeded in making off with \$100,000. Twenty-two prisoners escaped from Victoria Gaol in the same way; and Dr. Legge told of how he was able to inform the Government of another plot, thus preventing eighty more prisoners from escaping. The criminals in those days tunneled to the drains.

Three classes of Chinese settlers came to Hongkong. From 250 to 300 years ago the Puntis people came from the heart of the great Tung Kuu District, which in those days, before the province of Sun On was cut off, was the Yorkshire of China. Hongkong formed a part of the Sun On District when it was taken over by the British. These Puntis people denuded the hill-side of its trees, clearing the ground for cultivation. After the Puntis came the Hakka people, from the north-east of the province. Whereas the Puntis had cut down the wood, the Hakkas even cut down the grass. Between the two they left a great deal of work for the present day Afforestation Department, both at Hongkong itself and at Kowloon. There were two groups of villages in the Colony. The Puntis speaking villages, including Wong-nei-chong, Tang-lung-chan, Pok-fu-lam, Chik-chu (Stanley; in former days the capital of the island) and Shek-o. Two Hakka villages were Tung-lo-wan and Tai-tam-tuk. Thirdly the Hoklo people came from the region of Swatow. These people formed no villages of their own but settled in existing villages such as Shau-ki-wan, Cheung Chow (Long Island, to the right of Macao), and Yaumati and Hunghom on the mainland. These Hoklos were terrible fellows for piracy and smuggling, and a great deal of trouble arose through their mixture with the other people. It was only right to say, however, that these Hoklo people were the nucleus of the Chinese who had done so much under the European occupation. The lecturer questioned if there was ever a spot of earth where enterprise had done so much. If the British founded colonies in the eastern seas, the Chinese developed them, and these Hoklo people were the nucleus of those who did the developing.

Dr. Eitel had humorously described how Hongkong became British. It was the offspring of a marriage alliance concluded at Canton in 1643 between the East India Company on the one part and the Chinese Government on the other. It was an ill-assorted marriage, one party having free-trade notions and ideas of international equality, and the other having enunciated ideas of monopoly and possessing claims of political superiority over the Universe. Divorce was bound to come and this was pronounced at Canton by Commissioner Lui; and Captain Elliot secured Hongkong for the British.

The Chinese had been dominated by a system of monotony. For countless centuries the son had copied the father, and the daughter the mother. The British, on the other hand, had escaped the limitations which had been determined beforehand. It was the high destiny of Hongkong to aid in the inevitable work of diffusing the existing culture of all nations to every part of the earth.

The aspect of old Hongkong during the first three years of British occupation had been described by both Mr. Tarrant and Dr. Legge. At the western part, beyond where the Sailors' Home is to-day, were the tents of the 55th Regiment. Sai-ying-pun, the Chinese name of the district, meant West Camp. There were no buildings between this and the spot where the Government Civil Hospital was built. This site was occupied by

two European residences. Travelling eastward, the next thing to be noticed was Tai-ping-shan where here and there were Chinese houses. The great plague scourge of 1894 decimated the inhabitants in this district. The Chinese in the beginning were allowed to build as they liked. Next came Jervois Street, now so celebrated for its Chinese New Year sales. Houses were on the northern side only, and the sea washed in between the building sites. The property between Jervois Street and the sea nowadays was worth a good deal. The streets leading up from what is now Queen's Road were few and almost deserted. There was no indication of the crowded tenements, narrow staircases and high rentals of to-day. On the west side of Pottinger Street were a few European houses; and there was a small commercial inn where merchants congregated. This inn was the forerunner of the Hongkong Club. Dr. Legge was jocular about a small house called the "Bird Cage," out of which has been hatched the Hongkong Dispensary. The space between Wellington Street and Wyndham Street was garden ground on which stood one house. Above the Parade Ground, below the spot where Government House now stands, was a bungalow, the dwelling place of the first two Governors of Hongkong. The military quarters were in course of construction, there being many blanks. Europeans had begun to occupy what is now Spring Gardens. Farther east was a hospital, a very poor building. Happy Valley was covered with rice and sweet-potato fields. Perhaps the only place which in all these years had remained the same was Wong-nei-chong Village. Hongkong consisted of one long street, an imperfect line, with houses and buildings scattered on the hill-side. Now, by European capital and Chinese labour, it had been transformed into a monument of commercial activity. Dr. Legge pictured Britannia standing on the Peak and looking down with pride on the city which her sons had built.

In conclusion, Mr. Pearce spoke of some individuals. Captain Elliot, the free-trade champion, was mentioned first. Sir Henry Pottinger was not popular. In his day, it might be mentioned, Europeans went about armed with revolvers, and slept with pistols under their pillows. Merchants' offices were guarded by armed constables, and private houses by watchmen. It was said that in those days Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company paid \$60 a month for twelve armed men to guard their premises at East Point. Sir John Davies was made noteworthy by his having sent an expedition from Hongkong to Canton. The expedition returned in 36 hours after capturing 879 guns. European residents at Canton described this enterprise as a wanton, bootless, buccaneering expedition. In this regime a poll tax was imposed on Europeans and Chinese alike, all residents having to present themselves once a year to the Registrar General. Chinese secret societies were put down, those being found guilty of this offence, a political offence, being branded on the face, and, consequently, they were beheaded by the authorities in China. Sir S. G. Bowen was a successful and popular governor. The Taiping Rebellion broke out during his regime, and Chinese flocked to Hongkong in thousands and tens of thousands. Chinese capital flowed in and various industries were started. Sir John Bowring had been described as very learned, a good speaker, but not a man of great deeds.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRICE OF FOOD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR.—Some of the correspondents in the press in discussing this subject tell us that if only European ladies would do their own marketing they would get their provisions much cheaper. I do not know how this conclusion is arrived at. The great majority of European ladies live a considerable distance from the market, and assuming that they could beat the butcher down in his prices a little—a doubtful assumption—it would resolve itself into expending 30 cents on chairs or riches to save 5 cents on the cost of the meat.—Yours.

OBSERVER.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

The 36th ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company) on Mar. 6. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland and A. J. Raymond (Consulting Committee), Mr. G. T. Veitch (Secretary), and Messrs. T. Arnold, W. A. Cruickshank, J. B. Michael, S. J. Michael, S. H. Michael, W. H. Michael, G. H. Potts, S. A. Joseph, W. H. Wickham, P. Tester, F. Hall, Ho Fook, Wong and Lo Sui Chee. The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, with your permission, we will adopt the usual custom and take the report and accounts as read. I think I may safely congratulate you on the outturn of the 1903 account. Our risks ran off without any serious losses, and with your approval we propose dealing with the balance of \$302,222.22 by the addition of \$30,222.22 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at the substantial sum of \$1,200,510.70, and the payment of a dividend of \$34. per share. The balance at credit of the 1904 working account is somewhat less than last year. This is owing to the numerous fires during the past twelve months, none of any great extent, but the claims aggregating a considerable sum. In addition to the amount appearing in the account, \$87,566.98 losses actually paid, we know of further claims, at present in course of adjustment estimated at \$44,839.11. This is disappointing, and I can only hope our outstanding risks will run off in a favourable manner. Our surveyors report that in every instance the properties mortgaged show ample margins on the sums advanced. There is nothing further in the accounts calling for any special comment from me, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts as presented I shall be pleased to answer any question pertaining thereto which shareholders may have to ask.

If there are no questions, I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. G. H. POTTS—I have very much pleasure in seconding. I am sure that I express the feeling of the shareholders in congratulating the directors on the very good results of the year's work, and I only hope that his remarks about the present year will turn out better than he anticipates.

The report and accounts were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. W. A. CRUICKSHANK proposed and Mr. T. ARNOLD seconded that the appointment of Mr. H. P. White on the Consulting Committee be confirmed, and that Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. F. Maitland, A. J. Raymond and H. P. White be re-elected on the Consulting Committee.

This was carried.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL proposed, Mr. Ho FOOK seconded, and it was carried, that Messrs. W. H. Potts and T. Arnold be re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants can be had at the offices of the General Managers at 10 a.m. to-morrow.

CITY HALL COMPANY.

The annual meeting of shareholders in, and subscribers to, the City Hall was held in the hall on the 9th March, when there were present:—Hon. W. J. Gresson (Chairman), Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Secretary) and Messrs. H. E. Pollock, K.C., N. A. Siebs, W. B. Layton and H. K. Mody.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN in moving the adoption of the annual report and statement of accounts, already published, said:—Gentlemen—As you have no doubt carefully studied the report and accounts, I propose with your permission to take them as read. During the year a sum of

\$8,566.75 has been expended on the property, in addition to \$1,530.53 on ordinary general repairs, and our architects report that the condition of the building is satisfactory. The fire service, under the supervision of the fire brigade, has been brought up to date. The accounts must, I think, be considered satisfactory, showing as they do, a credit balance of \$2,229.82 after payment of the expenditure on the roofs and theatre. About 16,000 persons visited the library during the twelve months, as against 23,000 for the eighteen months covered by the last report, which proves that the public continue to appreciate this part of the institution. On behalf of the members of the committee, I desire to express their appreciation of the active interest taken in the institution by our Secretary, Mr. Bowley.

Mr. MODY seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

This concluded the public business.

The report for the 12 months ending December 31, as submitted, was as follows:—

COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson resigned the position of Chairman in May last on leaving the Colony, and Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson succeeded him *ex officio*.

Mr. C. S. Sharp resigned his seat on the Committee on leaving the Colony. The Committee now consists of the Chairman, Messrs. B. Layton (Hon. Treasurer), H. N. Mody, N. A. Siebs and H. E. Pollock, K.C. There have been no changes of any importance in the Staff.

THE STATE OF THE BUILDING.

The whole of the roofs have been retiled and all defective timbers renewed and new ceiling to the Ball-Room suite (composed of cement plaster on expanded metal lathing) constructed at a total cost of about \$8,000.

Ordinary general repairs cost \$1,530.53.

The usual annual inspection was made in September by the Architects, Messrs. Palmer & Turner, who report that the general condition of the building is satisfactory.

THEATRE, &c.

The Pit has been re-seated with benches with out arms, increasing the accommodation and facilitating the means of access. Movable electric lamps have been fixed in the orchestra.

The Amateur Dramatic Club gave some very successful performances, and the Theatre was also let to the Dallas Opera Company, Pollard's Lilliputian Company and many minor travelling companies, as well as for local concerts and entertainments.

The total rent received in 1904 was \$12,161.86, a large increase on previous years, but the expenses of lighting, &c., increased proportionately.

THE LIBRARY.

The number of books published in Hongkong deposited in the Library during 1904 was 52, of which the majority were religious publications from the Nazareth Printing Press.

140 books were added to the Free Lending Collection and 148 borrowers' tickets issued. The total number of borrowers on 31st Dec. was 267, drawn from all sections of the population, whose demand for literature deserves an increased supply.

The proprietors of the "Gazette" and local newspapers, the members of the Committee and others kindly continued the supply of newspapers and periodicals, which are much appreciated by visitors to the Library.

About 11,500 non-Chinese and 4,500 Chinese made use of the Library during the year.

MUSEUM.

A few specimens of birds and snakes, and numerous butterflies and other insects have been added to the Museum, which was visited by nearly 100,000 Chinese and about 4,600 non-Chinese during the year.

ACCOUNTS.

The balance in the hands of the Treasurer on closing the accounts for 1904 was \$2,229.82.

The reserve fund on fixed deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which has been increased by adding the accrued interest, stands at \$15,774.41.

The ordinary revenue (excluding balance brought forward and interest on fixed deposits) amounted to \$12,278.06 and the ordinary expenditure to \$12,079.88.

The extraordinary expenditure on the roofs and theatre has been paid for out of revenue. A statement of accounts is attached.

W. J. GRESSON.

Chairman.

Account of receipts and expenditure from 1st January to 31st December, 1904.

To balance in hands of Treasurer as shown in last report.....	\$3,938.34
To rent of theatre, &c.	\$12,161.96
To rent of ball room, St. Andrew's Hall, &c.	4,263.58
To rent of Chamber of Commerce	764.65
To rent of Brokers' Association Room	130.00
To Government grant	1,200.00
To sale of library catalogues, fines, and sundries	252.30
To interest on current account	105.57
	18,878.06
	\$22,816.40
By salaries and wages	\$4,425.20
By retiling and repairing roofs, new ceilings and pit seats	8,506.75
By general repairs	1,530.53
By electric light and gas	3,380.31
By water, fire brigade and police	365.76
By office, library and museum sundries ..	700.76
By fire insurance	1,355.30
By refund of deposit for theatre	331.98
	\$20,586.58
By balance in bank exclusive of fixed deposits	2,229.82
	\$22,816.40

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-sixth ordinary meeting of the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held at the Company's offices, No 3, Queen's Road, Central, on March 9th. Mr. E. Goetz (Chairman) presided, and there were also present: Hon. Mr. R. Shewan, Messrs N. A. Siebs, H. W. Slade, A. Haupt, A. G. Wood, E. Shellim, E. S. Joseph, J. J. Leiria, A. J. V. Ribiero, W. H. Wickham, Captain Goddard, Tong Lai Chuen, Chan Pat, B. M. Conceicao, F. Smythe, P.M.N. da Silva, A.H.M. da Silva, Hon. Wei Yuk and C. Pemberton (acting secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the Directors' Report and Statement of the Company's accounts for the past year having been in your hands for some time, I will, subject to your approval, now adopt the usual course and take them as read. You will, I am sure, have noticed with great pleasure the extremely favorable out-turn of the year 1903, which has resulted in a profit of \$236,374.17, the loss ratio being 43.85 per cent. of the premium income, as compared with 41.71 per cent. for 1902. With your approval we propose to deal with this sum as follows:

Dividend of \$6 and bonus of \$1 per share	\$140,000.00
Add to extra reserve fund	92,364.17
Bonus to office staff	4,010.00

\$236,374.17

We are again, I am glad to say, in the happy position of being able to recommend a Bonus of \$1 per share, in addition to the usual dividend of \$6 per share, and also to transfer the sum of \$92,364.17 to the Extra Reserve Fund, which will then stand at \$218,039.73. Such results, however, cannot be expected every year, and your Directors cannot impress upon you too strongly the advisability, in the best interests of the Company, of continuing to build up the Extra Reserve Fund. Bad years may come and we may be in the unfortunate position of having to show a loss instead of a profit. This fund would then, we hope, enable us to continue our dividend, and its utility in this respect has been already twice proved in 1898 and 1901, when, but for its existence, the dividend would have had to be decreased. Turning now to the Balance Sheet, the amount under the heading of Investments shows a decrease of \$110,660.42, which is principally accounted for by the fact that the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co's Debentures, of which the Company held \$103,152.50, have been

repaid. On the other hand, Loans on Mortgage show an increase of \$168,500, the other items remaining much the same. The balance at the credit of Working Account 1904 is \$280,374.35, which is considerably above the average, although \$68,673.13 less than the sum carried forward last year. This is accounted for by losses being unusually heavy, being \$139,902.29 as against \$46,273.55 in the 1903 account. Fires were very numerous during the year, especially in Shanghai, and the two fires in Kowloon Godowns here will be still fresh in your minds. Our Premium and Interest Accounts both show satisfactory increases, the former of \$35,450.46, and the latter of \$8,749.90. During the year we commenced doing business in Calcutta and India generally and so far this has proved very satisfactory. We also have opened an Agency at Chinwangtao. Our outstanding liabilities in Japan also ran off, without, I am glad to say, any further losses. I will now move that the Directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1904 as presented be adopted. After this has been seconded, I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put relating to business before the meeting.

Mr. ORANGE:—I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion and also to congratulate the Board and the acting secretary on the excellent figures produced before us. I have also to thank, on behalf of the shareholders, the Chairman for his very excellent speech, which certainly gives us very much more information on the working of the Company than is usual at ordinary meetings.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The appointment of the Hon. R. Shewan was confirmed on the motion of Mr. LEIRIA, seconded by Mr. SILVA.

Mr. RIBIERA proposed the re-election of Messrs. H. W. Slade and A. Haupt to the Board of Directors. Mr. SMYTHE seconded and the motion was carried.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. JOSEPH, seconded by Mr. WICKHAM.

The CHAIRMAN:—That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 4th March

THE VICEROY'S RETURN.

His Excellency the Viceroy Shun Chon Hün having successfully suppressed the Kwangsi rebellion, requested the Imperial government to allow him to return to Canton. By order of the Emperor, he started from Wu Chow on the 1st inst by the gunboat *Ting Sai* and arrived at Sam Sui the same evening. Next morning the 2nd inst., with several attendants, *incognito*, he travelled by the Sam Sui railway to Canton.

When they got the news of his arrival, it was too late for the officials to receive him. Later the Provincial Treasurer handed him the official seal of the Viceroyalty. All his civil and military officials, the writers, attendants and soldiers who have been staying with him in Wu Chow are returning.

OBSTRUCTIVE PRIESTS.

By order of the Imperial Government, almost all the joss houses, the priests' temples, and the convents, have to allot some space for school work. The priests are not at all satisfied, and are doing their best to oppose and give trouble to the gentry. So on the morning of the 26th February when the School in the Cheong Sow Tsz Buddhist temple was being opened for the reception of the scholars, over thirty priests went into the schoolrooms, broke all the tables and chairs, and the tablets, and took away many things. As they were doing so, they incited the crowds that were gathering there to help them to make a noise, and to throw stones at the Committeemen. Many persons had their heads broken. The Magistrates of the Nam Hoi and Pun Yui went with soldiers and police to suppress the riot. Subsequently the priests called a meeting to ventilate their grievances, and the gentry also called meeting after meeting to protest against the acts of the riotous priests, both parties presenting petitions to the Magistrates.

QUNER LOTTERY PIDJIN.

Since the house property, lands, jewellery, and clothing of the gambling monopolist Li Sai Kwai, and of the ex-Nam Hoi Magistrate, Pui Kingfuk, were seized and confiscated by order of the government, a lottery has been made of them at \$6 a ticket. It was to be drawn on the 16th of the 1st moon; but as the greater part of the tickets were not sold, the drawing was postponed till the 16th of the 2nd moon. The people have already lost confidence in the officials; and suspect them of fraud. In order to get rid of the tickets the officials and *Weiquins* of the *lekin* stations have given away the tickets, at a discount, to their clerks and servants, and to soldiers in payment of their wages.

INTERESTING ASSAULT CASE.

LIEUTENANT V. COXSWEIN

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on Mar. 7th, Lt. Dobbin R.G.A. charged Cheung Tim, coxswain of the steam launch *Kwong Hing*, with using abusive language and being guilty of conduct calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, and further, in conjunction with others unknown to the complainant unlawfully did assault the complainant on the 24th February last. Mr. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, and Deacon) represented the complainant.

G.H.W. Dobbin deposed: I am a Lieutenant of the R.G.A. On the 24th February I was stationed at Lyemun. I went to the *Kwong Hing* launch at 7.30 in the evening to go to Kowloon, understanding it was to start at that time. It did not leave until 8.15. When we got clear of the jetty a man came for the fare and I remarked that the launch was late in starting. The man went and spoke to the defendant, who was at the wheel. There were two forms in the front of the launch, and I was sitting on one of them. The defendant came up, caught me by the right arm, and said "come now, pay at once." I then put a card on the table with three cents. He took up the three cents and went to the wheel. I then went and sat on the port side, as far away as I could from the defendant. About ten minutes afterwards he came up to me again, caught me by the arm, and said, referring to the card, "What is write down." He then shook me by the arm. I said to the defendant "I will find out if you have started at the right time" The defendant, still holding on to my arm, said in a peremptory manner "You report me to No. 1 You are d— Englishman and want to get us Chinese into trouble." He then pushed my arm and said—"I think no belong d—Englishman; belong d—Scotchman." The defendant then called me a d— fool whereupon I tried to strike him. He attempted to catch me by the arm, but I caught him by the throat. I bore the defendant to the deck when five men sprang upon me and held me face downwards. One of the men kicked me on the back. They kept me down until we arrived at Hongham. I was wearing a field service cap which fell on the deck. As we came alongside the wharf a constable came up and I was let go. The defendant seized me by the arm and said—"Go on: the cap have go overboard." I went with the constable to the Police Station, the defendant following with four or five men. I reported the case to the Sergeant on duty, who said it was entirely my fault. Had I struck the defendant I should have had to strike him on the left side of the face.

Nadda, an Indian passenger, corroborated the officer's statement.

Wong U Sam, Court Usher, gave evidence as to serving the summons on the defendant. Defendant threw it on the ground, saying he did not assault the complainant, but the complainant assaulted him. Four or five foks then rushed out from the inside of the shop and called out "Ta, Ta." "Strike him," "Strike him."

Cheung Tim declared. It was 7.35 or 7.45 p.m. when we got alongside the jetty at Shau-kiwan. We then had our rice. While I was eating mine, complainant came on board and sat down. He did not say anything at that time. Sometime after leaving, the collector went up to him. The complainant had a lot to say to the collector, who did not

understand him. The collector asked me to go and see him. I said to the complainant in a low tone—"Where are you going Hongham or Hongkong? If you are going to Hongham the fare is three cents." The complainant did not pay. He said he would report or summons me. He produced his watch saying—"You see what time it is now." It was 8.15 p.m. I left him and went to the wheel, where I stayed for about ten minutes. Then he said—"I want the name of your launch to summons you." I did not look at the complainant for two or three minutes, after which time I said—"Master, what are you going to summons me for?" The complainant said—"Your launch should have left at 7.30, and did not leave till 8.15 p.m." I asked complainant to give me his name two or three times, but he said he had no pencil. I said to him—"When you took the name of the launch you had a pencil, now you say you have no pencil." At this time I was standing in a stooping position. Complainant took off his coat and gave me a blow on the cheek bone with his clenched fist, causing me to fall to the deck. I fell, and while I was on the ground, he caught me by my throat and pressed me down. Then three or four men came up and pulled complainant away. I ran by the side of the wheel and said—"You no belong English, you belong Scotch." The complainant then chased me, and caught me, and fell on top of me. I called out "This won't do." Then lots of the passengers came and pulled complainant away. Just at this time the launch got alongside the wharf. I said—"He has assaulted me, call the Police and give him in charge." At that time there were two passengers holding on to complainant and I told them not to let him go, as he would kill me if there were no constables about. A lukong then came up and the complainant was released. He asked me for his cap. I said—"Perhaps it has gone overboard." He again demanded his cap. I said—"This won't do. You must come with me to the Station and have the matter settled." We then went to the Station. The Sergeant asked me my complaint, and I told him the complainant had assaulted me. I was asked to stand aside and the Sergeant questioned the complainant. The Sergeant then said to me—"Did he strike you?" I showed him how I was struck, after which he examined me and asked if I would like to take out a summons. I said—"If the complainant does not want me to pay compensation for his cap, I will not summons him." The Sergeant then said to me—"He does not want you to pay compensation for his cap. Will you let the matter drop?" I said "alright." He said "Well go away."

The hearing of this case, in which Lt. Dobbin R.G.A. charged Cheung Tim, coxswain of the steam launch *Kwong Hing* with using abusive language and being guilty of conduct calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, and in conjunction with others assaulting the complainant on the 24th February last, was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on Mar. 9. Since our last report the defendant has taken out a cross summons for assault. Mr. Looker appeared on behalf of the complainant and Mr. R. A. Harding represented the defendant.

Sun Luk was the next witness for the defence. He said: I am the fare collector on the steam launch *Kwong Hing*. I was on board at Shaikiwan on the 24th February last.

At this stage, Mr. Looker drew His Worship's attention to the defendant, who was nodding at the witness, and defendant was turned about so as to look in another direction.

Witness continuing:—I saw the defendant on board, but do not know when he arrived. Shortly after leaving Shaikiwan, I went round to collect the fares. I went to the complainant, but did not get his fare, although I asked him for it. I do not know what he said when I asked him for it. I then asked defendant to go and ask him, while I went on with my collecting. When I got to the stern of the launch I heard a disturbance. It took me about a quarter of an hour to get to the stern. I saw the complainant holding defendant by his throat with both hands, and pressing him down on to the deck. I next saw a few of the passengers dragging the complainant away, after which defendant got up and

walked away. The complainant then gave chase. He caught the defendant and both of them fell down by the side of the funnel, the complainant on top. Again a few passengers pulled them apart. Defendant said "Don't let him go; if you do he will kill me." The passengers did not let him go; they pressed him down. At this time the launch was close to the wharf. When we got alongside we saw a lukong standing on the wharf. The passengers then let the complainant go, and defendant and a few others went up to the Police Station. I went with them, but do not know what took place there, as I cannot understand English. The witness Naddal (produced) was not on the launch. There was an Indian on board, but he was a taller man.

Cross-examined by Mr. Looker: Complainant's cap fell overboard, so the defendant said. I did not see it go over. There were between thirty and forty Chinese passengers on board. As I said before, I was at the stern when I heard the disturbance. I turned my head to see what was going on, but did not move. The pressing down of defendant by the complainant took place at the bow. I could see this because there was a clear passage from the stern to the bow. The passengers pressed the complainant down for about a moment. I was not in the office when the summons was served on the defendant. I was on the launch. The defendant was also on board when the summons was served. I did not see it served on him. The ordinary time for the launch to start is not 7.30. When one launch arrives the other departs.

Re-examined by Mr. Harding: There is no time put up at which the boat leaves. The complainant did not ask me to look for his cap. Twice the complainant had hold of the defendant on the deck. The second occasion was after the complainant had chased the defendant. When the passengers pulled the complainant off the defendant in the first instance they let him go.

Chiu Tong stated: I was a passenger by the steam launch *Kwong Hing* on 24th February last. I saw the complainant sitting on a form at the bow. The defendant was steering the boat. The defendant came up and was bending down with his hands on his knees talking to him. I was about four feet away. I did not see anything much. They were just talking and all of a sudden they fought. I first saw the complainant showing his watch to the defendant, who had a look, and afterwards went back to the wheel. He left the wheel again to go and speak to the complainant. While they were talking I saw the complainant get up, take off his coat and give the defendant a blow on the head. The blow felled defendant to the deck.

Complainant then got up top of the defendant, pressed him down and caught hold of him by the neck. Then four passengers went and separated them. The defendant went and stood by the wheel, while the complainant sat down on the form. They spoke to each other again, but I did not understand what they said. After speaking for awhile defendant ran and complainant chased him. When they were running near the funnel, the complainant caught hold of the defendant and both of them fell to the deck, the officer on top. The passengers went to save the defendant. They pulled the complainant off, and as defendant got away he called out—"Don't let him go; if you do he will kill me." The passengers then held complainant by the hands. At this time the launch had run alongside the wharf. A constable came on board and all parties went to the station.

Cross-examined by Mr. Looker: When the fight took place I was standing by the wheel in front of the funnel. Most of the passengers were sitting on two forms over the boilers and in front of the funnel. When the defendant left the wheel his assistant took it.

Sergeant O'Sullivan stated: On the morning of the 24th ult. I was on duty at the Hongham Police Station. The defendant, the complainant, Sun Luk, another Chinese and P. C. 196 came to the Station. The complainant stated in presence of the defendant that he boarded the launch at Shaikiwan. The coxswain was very slow in starting from Shaikiwan, and he spoke to him about it. He said the launch left about 8.15 a.m. Shortly after leaving, one of the Chinese came round and asked him for his fare.

He then said something about his fare and his card. Shortly afterwards the coxswain threw some rice from a mug which went over his (the complainant's) clothes. He said he asked the coxswain what he meant, and the coxswain called him a d—fool, and used some other insulting language which he would not repeat. Complainant said he then attempted to strike the coxswain, but did not actually hit him. I then asked the defendant what he had to say. He said the complainant boarded the launch at Shaikiwan at 7.15 a.m. On the way across the complainant got very abusive, and finished up by striking defendant on the cheek bone with his fist. I examined the defendant's face and his two cheek bones appeared to be swollen. He told me he was struck on the left cheek bone. On looking closely at his face, I came to the conclusion that the right cheek bone was a little more swollen than the left. Both appeared red. I asked him the reason, if he were struck on the left, that the right cheek should be more swollen. He said when he was struck he fell. I then asked him if he wished to bring a charge against the complainant and he answered—"No. I am a business man." I told the complainant that from what I could see, he appeared to be altogether in fault, and that it was a serious matter interfering with the coxswain of a launch while under way. I asked him if he wished to bring a charge against the defendant. He answered "No. I don't wish to take the matter to Court." He also made the remark "I have no charge to bring." I then asked him if he wished me to go on board the launch to search for his cap, and he replied "No, I don't think it is on board now." I asked him about his cap because he said something about defendant having taken it. The complainant on leaving said "Thank you," and appeared to be quite satisfied about the matter. When the defendant said he did not wish to bring any charge against the complainant I entered it in the "refused charge book."

After hearing the addresses of the solicitors for the complainant and defendant, His Worship found that the action of the complainant in the beginning was unwarrantable. He referred to that part of the story where the complainant claimed as a matter of right, inasmuch as the launch was late in starting, that it was not necessary to pay any fare. With reference to the law on the subject, it had been settled over and over again that a person travelling on a conveyance or railway, who refused to give up his ticket, was regarded in the light of a trespasser, and the railway officials were entitled to consider him as such, and put him off the carriage at the next station. He found as a fact that the defendant did go up and catch complainant by the arm in a very irritating manner, and the language used by the defendant was such as would be calculated to create a breach of the peace, wherefore His Worship felt bound to convict him on the two charges on the summons. As to what happened afterwards, His Worship found that the complainant did strike the defendant, and although the defendant used language liable to create a breach of the peace, the complainant was not justified in assaulting him because he used that language. The conduct of the defendant was of a very irritating nature, and what really happened was that the complainant lost his temper. With reference to what occurred afterwards, the evidence was very conflicting, and in His Worship's opinion a general fight ensued. He did not propose to inflict any penalty on the defendant considering the facts of the case, beyond ordering him to be bound over in the sum of \$100 to keep the peace for six months.

The cross-summons issued by the defendant's solicitor was withdrawn.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED MURDER.

Wong Kong Fai, Chan Ts'oi and Li Fat were charged before Mr. H. H. J. Gomperts at the Police Court on March 8th with attempting to kill and murder Tan Ching near the market place called Un Long in the New Territory on the 31st January last. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson prosecuted. The prisoners denied the charge.

Wong Man Chun declared: I saw a man in the temple whom I suspected. When the

man saw me he ran away, and I gave chase. I overtook and arrested him on suspicion of having illicit opium in his possession. He had three boxes of opium in his hand. I arrested him and was taking him to the Police Station. The three defendants came up and told me to let the man go. I said I would not. One of the defendants seized my queue from behind and pulled me down. They kept me on the ground and struck me. One of them took my revolver from its belt. I had several nasty wounds on the head and became insensible. When I came to myself I was in the Police Station, and was sent from there to the Government Civil Hospital. The prisoner I was taking up escaped.

Police Sergeant Perkins gave evidence as to finding the last witness lying on the ground about 300 yards from the Police Station in an exhausted condition.—Dr. Laing, assistant Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, testified as to proceeding to the New Territory and examining Tan Ching. He found his head much swollen and from ten to fifteen stab wounds on his head and face. Both upper eyelids were out. He had also minor wounds on both hands. His life was not at any time in danger from his wounds. From the injuries he received he (the doctor) came to the conclusion that the lukong had been attacked with a view to putting out both his eyes, but he saved himself by his activity.

After taking the prisoners' statements, His Worship committed them for trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

H.E. the Governor has provisionally appointed Mr. C. McL. Messer to be a Police Magistrate in the New Territory till further notice; and Mr. S. B. C. Ross a Police Magistrate at Hongkong and Assistant Superintendent of Police vice Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe. Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher has been provisionally appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils vice Mr. S. B. C. Ross; and Mr. G. N. Orme Assistant Registrar General and Deputy of Marriages vice Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher. H.E. the Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has appointed Mr. R. H. Crofton to be Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office vice Mr. M. J. Drayson.

A CHINESE PIRATE.

Before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on Mar. 7, Mr. R. A. Harding, on behalf of the Chinese Government, made application for the extradition of Ma Choi Ko, who is alleged to be one of the notorious pirates of the west river, and to have held up the Hok Li junk which used to run between the Kwong Ning district and the Sze Win district in the province of Kwang Tung. He, with five other pirates, held the occupants of the junk up with revolvers, and relieved them of \$128 odd and various items of clothing.

Evidence having been adduced, His Worship, after administering the usual caution, asked defendant if he wished to make any statement.

Defendant said:—On the 15th May of last year I went to Canton. I returned to Kwong Ning on the 8th December. Yau Tai Fong is an elder of the village next to mine. I have known him since childhood. The Chinese authorities were pressing him to produce the offenders in this piracy. He could not find any of them, so he said I was one of them, thus making the innocent suffer. He came to Hongkong to look for the real robbers, but not being able to find the real pirates he found the wrong ones. He kept my clansman Ma Wing, in the meeting house, and forced him to say that I was one of the robbers. I have never been in a gang in Kwong Ning City as he stated. On the 14th December of last year I quarrelled with Yau Tai Fong and on the 8th January I came to Hongkong. On the 17th January I was working in a Shanghai furniture shop here when Yeung Luk, of the Chinese constabulary, who was in league with Yau Tai Fong, arrested me as the

man wanted. If a despatch had come down to say I was the man wanted, I would admit.

His Worship—You have been arrested here and tried, because the Chinese Government have asked that you be handed over to them.

Defendant—In that case I had better be handed over.

His Worship—I now commit you to Victoria gaol to await the order of the Governor. You will not be surrendered until the expiration of fifteen days from the present date, and you have the right to apply to the Supreme Court for *Habeas Corpus*.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

THE 93RD BURMA INFANTRY.

The 93rd Burma Infantry held athletic sports on March 4th at the Kowloon Parade ground. President—Major S. G. Radcliff. Executive Committee—Major S. R. Stevens, Lieut. E. Burd, Capt. W. H. Simpson and Jemadar Kirpal Singh. Judges—Subadar Major Isar Singh and Jemadar Madat Khan. Time-keeper—Major S. R. Stevens. Starter—Lieut. H. W. F. Ricketts.

H. E. the Governor and H. E. Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B., were included among the spectators. A large crowd of Indians, and a fair number of Europeans witnessed the races. The band of the 93rd Burma Infantry took turn and turn about with the pipers of the same regiment playing selections during the afternoon. The 93rd Burma Infantry entered two teams for the recent Hockey Shield Competition, and these teams competed in the final. A very interesting event on Saturday was dribbling the hockey ball. The competitors had to work around several little posts. The first heats were run off on Friday. Results of the various events are as follows:—

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.—Sawan Shah, 1; Maji, 2; Mahomed Abdul, 3. Distance: 85 yards 2 feet.

LONG JUMP.—Nine competitors. Harnam Singh, 1; Narayan Singh, 2; Rel Singh, 3. Jump: 18 feet 4 inches.

QUARTER MILE.—A flat race for recruits. Four competitors. Iman Din, 1; Ujagar Singh, 2; Gazan, 3. Time: 60 3/5 sec.

HALF MILE.—In this event Bagah Singh and Ganga Singh, two old hands, gave the field 20 yards start. Nine competitors. Narayan Singh, 1; Hari Singh, 2; Mota Singh, 3; Ganga Singh, 4. Time: 2 minutes 14 4/5 seconds.

PUTTING THE SHOT.—Seven competitors. Sher Singh, 1; Prem Singh, 2; Ghulam Muhammad, 3. Distance: 31 feet 7 1/2 inches.

HUNDRED YARDS.—Narayan Singh and Mihan Singh scratch; Muhammad Abdul, 2 yards; remainder, 5 yards. Six competitors. Tmam Din, 1; Hari Singh, 2; Ganga Singh, 3. Time: 11 4/5 seconds.

DRIBBLING THE HOCKEY BALL.—Six competitors. Sham Singh, 1; Mehtat Singh, 2; Channan Singh, 3.

QUARTER MILE.—Open to British troops and the Navy. Seven competitors. The first three men all belonged to the 83rd Company Royal Garrison Artillery. Wilks 1; W. Brown, 2; H. Brown, 3. Time: 12 2/5 seconds.

HIGH JUMP.—Hav Notah Singh and Prem Singh, dead heat; Ujagar Singh, 3. Jump: 5 feet 0 1/2 inch. Prem Singh had to allow one inch.

QUARTER MILE.—Eight starters. Narayan Singh, 1; Muhammad Khan, 2; Iman Din, 3. Time: 58 4/5 seconds.

QUARTER MILE.—Open to non-commissioned officers and men of the Navy and Army. Wood, R.G.A., 1; Wilks, R.G.A., 2; Broyd (H.M.S. *Astraea*), 3. Time: 62 2/5 seconds.

ONE MILE.—Six starters. Bagh Shah and Ganga Singh, scratch; remainder, 40 yards. Ganga Singh, 1; Mota Singh, 2; Muhammad Khan, 3. Time: 5 minutes 20 seconds.

HUNDRED YARDS.—Open to officers of the Navy and Army and members of the Hongkong Club. Lieut. Seymour, R.N. (H.M.S. *Albion*), 1; Mr. Horsey, R.N. (H.M.S. *Vengeance*), 2. Time: 11 4/5 seconds.

After a company relay race had been run, three cheers were given for Mrs. Hatton, who presented the prizes.

CHINA'S COMING CRISIS.

In its "Native Notes," the *N.-C. Daily News* had this on March 1st:—

A private letter from Peking states that the high officials in the Capital have only lately begun to recognise what has been patent to every one else outside Peking, that, with the close of the present war, China will have to pass through a grave crisis threatening the very foundations of her independence and that to avert anarchy and chaos the forces of the Empire must be well armed and prepared for emergencies and immediate service. In view of this, we learn, that there is now evident a feverish anxiety among Manchu Civil and Military officials in the Capital properly to arm the various Banner Corps organisations, Manchu as well as Mongol and Chinese (Hanchun) Bannermen, quartered in Peking and its immediate vicinity. Up to the middle of February, the authorities have succeeded in providing some twenty-eight battalions of Bannermen with either Mannlicher or Mauser magazine rifles, not counting a force of some 7,000 Manchus who have been equipped with these modern rifles since 1902. But it is stated on reliable authority that at least 30,000 more magazine rifles are needed to arm these Banner Corps under mention, without which the defences of the capital would not be anywhere complete, and instructions have accordingly been telegraphed to the small-arms factories in the Yangtze provinces to lose no time in making the rifles needed, whilst contracts are being made with foreign arms manufacturing companies for the immediate supply of many thousands more. Finally, it must be understood that the Banner troops under mention are only those who have been selected during the past eighteen months to form the nucleus of a foreign-modelled army for the protection of Peking, and that if all the Banner Corps organisations (Manchu, Mongol and Hanchun, or Chinese) which are in existence be properly enrolled and armed, at least half a million more magazine rifles will be needed. As far as can be learned at present to have the Banner regiments prepared for immediate service, that is to say, by the middle of the coming summer, they will amount to nearly 45,000 of all arms. It must also be understood that neither Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai's nor General Ma Yu-k'un's foreign modelled forces are included in the foregoing. Of these latter who of course are all of Chinese descent, there are according to reliable information, about 25,000 really useful and properly equipped men with good officers over them. Besides these there are some 35,000 men of inferior discipline but good quality, and partially armed with modern weapons, only waiting to be properly trained and officered like their better-drilled comrades.

SMALL POX AT SHANGHAI.

The Health Officer's Report (for January) to the Shanghai Municipal Council, said:—

During January the number of deaths among the foreign resident population was 16: there were in addition 7 deaths among non-residents.

Among the Chinese population the number of deaths during the month was 698.

During January the incidence of small-pox, which was so marked during the previous months, considerably declined, though the cases, both among Chinese and foreigners, remain of a severe type. Among the Chinese there were 189 deaths as against 315 last month. Among foreigners, however, there were 38 cases notified, nine of which were fatal, compared with 31 cases and five deaths last month. The cases among foreigners have occurred among those imperfectly vaccinated and the great value of vaccination, repeated until it no longer takes, has been amply demonstrated. There is so much small-pox infection every winter in China that vaccination should be repeated every three years. All Chinese and also indigent foreigners are vaccinated free of charge at the Health Office, No. 1, Hoan Road, at 10 a.m. daily. 150 such vaccinations were done during the month. 5,000 tubes of vaccine have been sent out from the Laboratory during the month. The small-pox accommodation at the new Municipal Hospital for infectious diseases

in Range Road has been fully occupied but towards the end of the month there were fewer admissions. The new Disinfection Station has been very busy; 90 rooms having been disinfected and nearly 6,000 articles passed through the steam disinfecter.

Apart from small-pox the Settlement has been remarkably free from preventable disease.

The new method of collection of household refuse will be applied to the whole of the Western District early next month. Householders are respectfully requested not to allow house refuse to be thrown on the roads but to provide a proper receptacle. This receptacle will be emptied daily by the sanitary coolies. No responsibility can be taken by the Health Department for the proper removal of house refuse unless such receptacles are provided by householders. For small households an ordinary galvanised iron pail is recommended, but for large households a galvanised iron bin should be used, an approved pattern of which will be sent at a charge of \$4 on receipt of an intimation addressed to the Health Office.

DEATHS REGISTERED.

	Non-Chinese.	Chinese.
Small-pox	189	—
Typhoid Fever	0	—
Cholera	0	0
Tuberculosis	135	—
Total from all causes	698	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED AMONG

NON-CHINESE.

Small-pox	38
Cholera	0
Typhoid Fever	3
Diphtheria	7
Scarlet Fever	1
Tuberculosis	2

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Admitted to Hospital	118
Discharged	110
Died	13
Remaining last day of month	56
Out-Patients	249
Vaccinations	150

A FRENCH TELEGRAPH SYSTEM IN ASIA.

Continuing its articles on the telegraphic communications of the world, and the danger of a practical English monopoly, *L'Indo Chine Republicaine* quotes the schemes which have been projected for a general French system which shall be independent of the British lines. Four years ago, our contemporary says, the Minister for the Colonies decided that telegrams destined for Saigon and Hanoi should be sent over the Russian in preference to the English lines (that is to say, that they would cease sending by the southern lines, which are entirely English, and pass through Aden, Bombay, Madras, Penang and Singapore), and would instead be sent over the cables of the Northern Company (Danish) of Copenhagen to St. Petersburg, Tomsk, Vladivostok, Nagasaki, Shanghai, Amoy and Hongkong, whence only an English line goes to Haiphong and Hue for Saigon. To avoid this English section, Hongkong to Haiphong, M. Doumer when governor-general of Indo-China proposed to lay a cable to Amoy, a Chinese port, where it might connect with the Russian lines. Our contemporary goes on to remark that one of the home journals has pointed out that such a cable would be in danger of being cut by the English because the cable would have to be laid in the neighbourhood of Hongkong.

The Saigon journal expresses a preference for the continental line because this would make a peaceful penetration into the Celestial Empire, easier. It is known that by the convention of April 1898, China confided her postal and telegraph services to French Agents. As the contracts between China and the Danish company who actually hold the Chinese telegraph expired in 1902, it would be easy to take advantage of the circumstances and make a great line from Indo-China to Siberia, a branch from Lonang Prabang could be carried up the valley of the Mekong as far as Batang, whence it would branch off towards Long-cheou and traverse Szechuan and Kwangsi. It would have to go round Tibet owing to the hostility of the inhabitants. At Loongcheou they would meet the Russo-Chinese line, and

they could use this track to reach Kulja or Ili across Mongolia. The cost is estimated at 2,000 francs per kilometre and the line could be constructed in twenty-five months.

THE CHING-HAN RAILWAY.

This important railway, now nearing completion, is bound to become a strong factor in the opening of the interior of China. Starting from the Chienmen Station, at the very precincts of the Imperial Palace in the Capital, it is constructed right through the centre of the great plain to the city of Hankow, the great growing emporium on the Yangtze river. It passes three provinces (Chihli, Honan, Hupeh) and the prefectural cities of Paoting and Shunte in Chihli; Changte and Weihui in Honan. From Peking to the Yellow River the track is 620 kilometres and from the Yellow River to Hankow 515.5 or nearly 1,200 kilos to the whole route. For the most part the country covered is uniformly flat and no engineering difficulty of any consequence had to be faced, but on the boundary between the provinces of Honan and Hupeh the line had to be carried in a serpentine course over a very mountainous district containing some of the finest scenery in China. The highest ridge is tunnelled. There is also a short tunnel on the south bank of the Yellow River at the approach to the bridge, which is now being rapidly built. This structure will be 3.3 kilometres in length and about 20 metres in height—six above water line.

There will be 102 spans (or arcs), but not of equal dimensions. Already twenty-two are completed from the south and ten from the north side. It is expected that the work will be finished in about five months. There is a staff of fifty European engineers and over 3,000 Chinese workmen employed, and the work is being rapidly pushed forward. An installation of electric light is being erected and work will go on day and night. The treachery and strength of the current, and the breadth and nature of the stream, make the bridging of "China's Sorrow" a magnificent engineering project. No caissons are built, but screw piles are driven by machinery, right down beneath the scour of the bed. When it is known that the depth of the main current is ten metres; that in flood there is over 14 metres of water, and that there is no rock foundation in the river, the difficulty and nature of the bridging task may be appreciated. The united wisdom of Belgian, French, Austrian, Italian, and British engineers—for those nationalities are all represented on the staff—ought to surmount all obstacles and overcome all difficulties. The native craft have taken across the treacherous current about 6,000 tons of bridge material to the north bank in one month. The Company put on a steam launch, but she disappeared in the eddies, leaving not a wrack behind!

It is interesting to know the actual time of travel between Peking and Hankow under present conditions. There are passenger trains being run and tickets issued on the north side from Peking to Changtêfu, and on the south side from Hankow to Hsüchou. The intervening sections north and south of the Yellow River have the rails laid right to the bridge both sides, and construction and ballast trains run at frequent intervals. Starting then from Peking, the first day's journey takes one to Shuntêfu, the second day to Changtêfu (or if you be fortunate to catch a construction train to Hunhuanghsui), the third day to Hsinhsianghsien, the fourth day to the Yellow River, the fifth day to Chêngchou, the sixth day to Hsüchou, the seventh day to Hsinyangchou and the eighth day to Hankow. With better luck in connection five or six days ought to suffice. Anyone proposing to make the trip either way ought to provide himself with (1) an official permit, (2) sufficient bedding and stores for six or eight days, (3) a Chinese servant, (4) patience to negotiate the crossing of the Yellow River and to encounter the discomfort of Chinese inn en route. He will find the officials and engineers fully occupied with their duties, but conspicuously civil and ready to facilitate the traveller's progress. In a few more months the service will be accelerated and the journey from Peking to Hankow will be easily accomplished in four days. When the bridge over the Yellow River is open this Yangtze port will be easily within

ten days' travel from the capital. Then the branch lines will further extend this artery of communication to other provinces. At Chên'ou (20 kilos south of Chêngtingfu) a narrow gauge line is being built to Taiyuanfu, the capital of Shansi. Fifty kilometres of roadway have been made and construction trains are running towards Huailin. From Chêngchou in Honan six Belgian engineers have been at work for over three months on the line from K'aisengfu the capital to Hsianfu, the great city of the west. North of the Yellow River the Ching-Han line also crosses the Peking Synpicate's short line. Other branches east and west are being surveyed for mining and other purposes. Altogether the Ching-Han railway is a conspicuous outcome of the energy of the engineers and the enterprise of the Company. May the undertaking be crowned with success and enrich the commonweal of the country.—*N.-O. Daily News*

THE BUTCHERS' GUILD.

A COMBINATION TO RAISE PRICES.

A *Daily Press* representative on March 1st interviewed the keeper of the Hongkong Butchery Company, in Central Market, to inquire the reason for the rise in the price of meat. This person stated that the reason for the latest increase of prices was that cattle from Canton were now more expensive than before. The man said that a cow formerly costing \$40. could not now be bought for less than \$50. This rise had come about gradually. Beef steak and soup meat now cost 20 cents and 16 cents respectively, as against 18 cents and 14 cents a few days ago. A similar increase was noted in the case of mutton. A \$10 sheep now costs \$12½ to \$13. "We now charge 28 cents for shoulder of mutton, and 28 cents for chops and neck, as against 24 cents and 26 cents respectively. It is not long since mutton was only 16 cents." It is Guild pidgin—the man said: "By and by still more dear. All butchers have agreed together."

THE TEA SEASON.

THERE is a rumour afloat that with the incoming tea season most of the Pailin or Paklum teas will be carried overland, as formerly, instead of being shipped by steamer. The reason given for this reversion to ancient practice is that during the past year, upon the arrival of steamers in Foochow, the teas were discharged in a hurry into sundry cargo boats, haphazard. This resulted in making the eventual sorting out of consignments a task of considerable difficulty and caused much delay in delivery.

Owing to insufficient accommodation on the steamers running between Santu and Foochow and the paucity of native craft bringing teas from interior shipping ports of the Samsah Inlet to Santu, consignments, it is maintained, were frequently either "shut out" at Santu or kept waiting at the more inland port of, for example, Mintek, Paisheh and Yentien.

It is further maintained that more godown accommodation is apparently needed both at Santu and Foochow. The fear is expressed that unless more consideration is shown for native interests in the Santu District "what little trade exists will disappear and the tea trade is likely to return to the old Channels"—cross country ones!

The subject is a most interesting, if not a most important one, for many interests are involved. We must regret that the above report has reached us too late to allow of a discussion in this issue. But we feel bound to say at once that we have serious doubts as to the probability of a revival of the Overland route. The whole question of inland navigation and the desirability of Santu as the central or principal Customs station is involved. And the season for Paklum teas being a very short one, the difficulties reported of insufficient godown accommodation should not prove a serious obstacle to such an infinite advantage as a direct shipment by steamer must afford. *Foochow Echo.*

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, March 1st, 1905, states:—The home markets are dull. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 11-10½ and in Lyons at Fcs. 33. Raw Silk.—Tsateles. There is only a small business to report in Tsateles, neither have Coarse Silks been in much demand. Hand Filatures.—We only hear of one transaction. Yellow Silk.—In small demand. Steam Filatures.—Very little doing. Tussah Filatures.—A fair business has been done for America. Waste Silk.—Very quiet.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—There is no change in the prices as when last reported

Sheklong, No. 1, White.....	\$9.12 to \$9.15 pcls.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.80 to 7.90 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.70 to 6.80 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	6.50 to 6.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.45 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.60 to 7.70 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.55 to 6.60 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	6.45 to 6.50 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	13.20 to 13.25 "
Sheklong "	12.30 to 12.40 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.05 to \$2.10
" Round, good quality	3.75 to 3.80
" Long.....	3.85 to 3.90
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.80 to 2.85
" Garden, " No. 1	2.85 to 2.90
" White,	3.95 to 4.00
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.35

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 9th March, 1905.—The movements in our various Opium markets since the 23rd ultimo, have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian.				
Stocks as per circular of				
23rd instant, 1905. ..	1,591	2,917	1,043	2,087
Feb. 24th Imports per Mulla ..	275	100	—	235
Feb. 27th " " Nam Sang ..	—	490	290	—
Mar. 6th " " Tourane ..	—	50	50	—
Mar. 7th " " Lightning ..	—	365	175	—
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	1,866	8,922	1,558	3,872
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.. ..	160	30	40	—
Estimated Stocks this day ..	1,531	3,267	1,330	2,224

Bengal.—The market has been very dull indeed as stocks are large. We quote Patna at \$1,150 and Benares at \$1,083 nominal.

Malwa.—A very small business indeed has been transacted and prices are about as follows:—

New	\$1,180
2 years old	\$1,160
3 " "	\$1,200
4/5 " "	\$1,250
Oldest	\$1,320

Persian.—Business is small prices are steady.

9th March.

Quotations are:— Allow'ce net. to 1 catty.		
Malwa New	\$1,180 to	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,180 to	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,250 to	do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,330 to	do.
Persian fine quality	\$880 to	do.
Persian extra fine	\$910 to	do.
Patna New	\$1,160 to	per chest.
Patna Old	\$ — to	do.
Benares New	\$1,090 to	do.
Benares Old	\$ — to	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of to-day's date, state that twelve steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 35,060 tons of Japan coal and 8,500 tons of Cardiff. Since 24th February 35,205 tons of Japan coal and 24,400 tons of Cardiff coal have arrived. The market is quiet. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian	\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Milki Lump	\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump.....	\$6.50 to 9.50 ex-ship, steady

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—Fair amount of business in good qualities. Stock about 3,500 bales.

Bombay	\$19.00 to 21.00 per pcl.
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca	\$1.50 to 23.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese	25.00 to 26.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	25.00 to 26.50 "
Reported sales 500 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his Report, dated Hongkong 10th March, says:—The market shows no signs of improvement, the few sales noted below being in execution of Shanghai orders. There is a wide difference between the ideas of buyers and sellers, but the latter are weak and would concede further to induce business. Buyers, on the other hand, having in view the heavy drop in the values of raw cotton, are playing a waiting game. Twenties are in more request, but prices offered are, in many cases too low to tempt holders. The Bombay market is reported steady. With incessant large arrivals and smaller off-takes our stocks show a steady increase, and as some of the Mills in India are endeavouring to swell their commission by working 14 hours instead of the usual 12, we are shortly threatened with an influx of goods far in excess of all possible requirements.—

Local Manufacture:—Local mill quotations are weak with no demand.

Japanese Yarn:—Dull and quiet in sympathy with the Indian article.

Raw Cotton:—The market has been featureless throughout, despite some advances on the other side, and with the quieter feeling sellers are easier in their rates and more disposed to meet any demand. There is nothing doing in China kinds. In Indian descriptions some 350 bales Superfine Bengal are reported sold at \$22 to \$23. Stocks are increasing and recent arrivals are going into godowns. Unsold stocks are estimated at 6,500 bales Indian, and 1,000 bales China. Quotations: Bengal \$19 to \$23 and China \$22 to \$24.

Exchange on India has steadily declined and closes to-day at Rs. 140½ for T/T and Rs. 140½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 92½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 24th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Business from first hands is slightly checked owing to brokers unloading their previous purchases under market rates. Sales aggregate 6,000 bales and stocks estimated at 36,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market much excited, available stocks small, and prices show an advance of two to four taels, best No. 16s. fetching more than No. 20s. Total sales about 3,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 92 to Tls. 108½ for No. 16s. and Tls. 98 to 107½ for No. 20s.

Local:—Some movement is observable in these threads, sales reported being 3,000 bales at firmer prices on the basis of Tls. 91 for No. 14s. and Tls. 93 for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 2nd March, 1905, states:—The first of the direct steamers to Tientsin of the season cleared from here on the 28th ultimo, and naturally took a great deal less cargo than was usually the case in former years, as supplies have been going up via Chinwangtao all the winter. The approximate quantity was 2,000 bales Indian and Japanese Yarn, 5,000 bales American goods of all descriptions and weights, 1,200 packages Manchester grey and bleached goods, and 600 cases fancy goods. The departures, however, are likely to be continuous, so that the market will be fed gradually and regularly instead of having an enormous quantity dumped down at one time, as used to be the case. Judging from the weather prevailing here it looks doubtful if the River will be quite free from ice when the steamers arrive. The market there is said to be quite satisfactory, and the dealers here have been able to resell at slightly higher prices. Newchwang is not waiting for the River there to open, but is still receiving merchandise by the railway. Shipments are coming forward from the States none too quickly, keeping stocks within a moderate compass. This is just as well, for the River markets are still in a very depressed state and show on signs of reviving, especially Hankow. A decided lull is noticeable in the forward business towards the close, owing to the outrageously long delivery Manufacturers are requiring. It appears to be perfectly genuine, however, for no inducement of higher prices will tempt them to earlier shipment, and regrets that an extension promise of time for contracts will be required are not at all infrequent. The chance of the trade being interfered with by strikes amongst the operatives is becoming more remote, as it is felt that employers are in a position to meet all reasonable demands. As an example of the rapidity with which makers have filled up, goods that were available for August delivery when the last Mail left cannot be ordered now before January shipment. The Manchester market is strong, and probably never before so full of orders for such a long distance ahead. Other markets than China

are drawing on her resources, which had been depleted by the long spell of scarcity and consequently dear Cotton. No material change has taken place in Liverpool quotations, the latest being 4.14d for Mid-American and 7d for Egyptian, which goes to show the failure of the object of Cotton Men's Convention in New Orleans at the end of January. They have been quite foiled in their attempt to raise the price, the last quotations from New York being 7.25 cents for April and 7.28 cents for May. It is just possible some reduction in the average may eventuate, but at present it looks as though a big muddle was going to be made of the whole industry through the futile endeavours of many of the interested parties trying to run before they have learnt how to walk! The feeling in this market is, at present, to abstain from tempting the American mill owners with any more orders for distant delivery at exorbitant rates. The total figures of last month's exports from England are not yet to hand, but the second fortnightly telegram was 33,000,000 yards to the 24th ultimo, making 61,000,000 yards from the 27th January to that date. The Yarn market is steady, but there is not much doing yet. Arrivals from India are decidedly heavy, the shipments from Bombay for the last four weeks being 32,000 bales, a good deal of which are under contracts made last year.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 10th March, 1905.

Beans	\$3/4
Borax	\$144/17
Camphor (China)	\$120
" (Formosa)	\$126
Cassia (First quality)	\$18/21
" (Second ")	\$14/16
" Oil	\$150
Cloves	\$28½/28
Fennel Seed Oil	\$310
Galangal	\$
Glue	\$22/24
Grapes	\$12½/13
Ivory	\$300/700
Kismiss	\$14½/16
Olibanum	\$5/20
Rosa Oil	\$60/175
Saltpetre	\$10/11
Sandal wood	\$27/28
" Oil	\$300/400
Senna Leaves	\$2/9
Sugar Candy	\$13½
Vermilion	\$70/75
Wax	\$30/33

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 10th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/11½	
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	238
Credits 4 months' sight	241½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	183½
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	46
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	14½
Bank, on demand	140½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank, on demand	140½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	92½
ON MANILA.—On demand	92½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	5½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	113½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10 50
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$55 50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27½

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, sailed on 1st March. For London:—1 case pianos, 2,025 bales hemp, 8 packages sundries, 4 cases cigars, 8 cases camphor, 2 packages blackwoodware, 18 rolls mattin, 4 cases wet ginger. For Marseilles:—2 cases hats, 50 bales leaf tobacco, 2 bales hemp, 50 bales waste silk, 120 bales canes, 100 cases cassia. For Liverpool:—10 cases essential oil.

Per steamer *Caledonien*, sailed on 7th March. For Marseilles:—325 bales raw silk, 250 bales waste silk, 267 bales pierced cocoons, 15 cases silk piece goods, 125 bales cassia, 154 rolls matting, 42 packages human hair, 4 cases ylang ylang oil, 6 cases hats, 9 packages sundries. For Lyons:—199 bales raw silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th March, 1905.—General business still continues somewhat dull, chief attention being devoted to closing transactions for settlement account. Quotations on the whole remain fairly steady, the feature of the week being a further advance in Banks, and to some extent in Canton Insurances also, whilst Indos are slightly lower than last week's rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have steadily improved, with small sales at from \$730 to \$740, market closing steady with probable buyers at \$740. London has advanced to £77. 10s. 0d. ex dividend. There is no change to report in Nationals which continue in request at \$36.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are somewhat easier with sales and sellers at \$695. China Traders have sold, and are still procurable at \$58½. Cantons have advanced to \$280 after sales at \$275 and \$277½. North Chinas and Yangtszes are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are quiet but steady at \$320 ex the dividend of \$34 per share for 1903 working, paid on the 7th instant. Chinas have been booked and are still procurable at \$86 ex the dividend of \$7 per share for 1903 account, paid to-day.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are steady with probable sellers at \$26½. Indo-Chinas after sales at \$124 down to \$122 close quiet at the latter rate. China and Manilas have been booked at the reduced rate of \$21 and more shares are on offer. Douglasses have improved to \$34 at which rate more shares can be placed. Star Ferries and Shell Transports are neglected at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands at \$225 to \$226 cash, and at \$226 to \$229 for settlement account, market closing firmer with buyers at \$226. Luzons are now enquired for at \$25.

MINING.—Raubs have again been booked at \$4. Charbonnages are unchanged at \$19 nominal.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quieter with some sellers at \$207. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves, after sales at \$100 and \$101 (new), have advanced to \$102 buyers, the old issue being quoted at the same rate ex the final dividend of 5 per cent. for 1904 payable to-morrow. Farnhams have been booked at Tls. 140 and Tls. 142, market closing with probable buyers at the higher rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold and are still procurable at \$128, and West Points at \$56. Humphreys' Estates are quiet with sellers at \$12 and buyers at \$11½. Hongkong Hotels are still enquired for at \$141 without tempting holders. Shanghai Lands are steady at Tls. 115 with probable buyers.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved to Tls. 27½ buyers, and Hongkongs to \$14½ buyers. Other stocks remain as last quoted.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos are procurable at \$14½. Fairy Farms have again been booked and more shares are wanted at \$12, Fenwicks have sold at \$40, and Cements at \$29, the latter closing in further request. Electrics (old) have improved to \$15½ buyers. Tramways can be placed at \$210. Steam Water boats are wanted at \$18 but are not obtainable under \$18½. South China Morning Posts have receded to \$24 sales. Watsons have sold and continue in request at \$12½ and \$12 for the old and new issues respectively. Powells are easier with sellers at \$12½.

MEMOS.—Geo. Fenwick & Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly, and extraordinary general meeting to-morrow, 11th instant. China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., and Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 23rd instant, transfer books closed from to-day to the 23rd instant inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$740. London, £77. 10.
National B. of China		
A. Shares	28	\$36, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$36, buyers
Founders	21	\$10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$5½.
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$14½, sales
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 27½, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 24.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, sales & buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 142
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$102, ex div., buy.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$207, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$27, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 147½.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$40, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$29, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Do New	\$5	\$9½.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$200, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$141, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$242, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$155
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$18½, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$280, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, ex d. sales & sell.
China Traders	\$25	\$58½, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, ex div.
North China	25	Tls. 95.
Union	\$100	\$695, sales & sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$160.
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$127½, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
Do New	\$10	
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	\$50	\$55½, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490.
Raubs	18/10	\$4
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$226, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, sales
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, sales
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$26½, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$122, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	22s.
Do. Preference	210	28. 10.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$37½, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$29, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22, sales
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, buyers
Do. New	\$3	\$4½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$12½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12½, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½.
Do. Founders	\$10	\$180.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending March 2nd, 1905, states:—During the week under review business has been quieter. There has been a slight easing of Farnham, Boyds, but beyond this we have to note no change of any importance. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. Local transactions are reported from Hongkong to this port at \$720 and \$730 ex 72½ and 73. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/7½. Marine & Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas remain steady at Tls. 91.

for March and 91½. Docks & Wharves.—Farnham, Boyds. A good business has been done in these, rates being easier during the close. The market opened on the 23rd with cash sales at Tls. 154 and 153 with sales for March at Tls. 155, and April Tls. 158. On the 24th February shares were placed at Tls. 154 and 155, for March Tls. 156, 157½; on 25th a cash transaction is reported at Tls. 155; on 27th cash shares changed hands at Tls. 154 with sales at Tls. 155, 154 and 152 March. On 28th March shares again changed hands at Tls. 152. At close the market is easier, transactions are reported for cash shares at Tls. 149. S. & H. Wharves. The market for these has been subject to considerable fluctuation during the week; sales are reported on the 23rd at Tls. 172 and 180 c.n.i., for cash Tls. 182½ and 185, 180 and 181½ March. Old shares sold separate at Tls. 145 and new Tls. 143. On the 24th shares changed hands at Tls. 182½. On the 27th cash shares were placed at Tls. 175 with sales at 175 and 177½ March; and later for cash Tls. 172. On the 28th at Tls. 177½ c.n.i. The market closes with sales at Tls. 175 for March at which rate shares are obtainable. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Weihsaiwei Golds have been placed at \$6, and Chinese Engineering & M. Co. bearer shares at Tls. 7.65. In connection with the latter stock it is rumoured that H.E. Chang Ye-mow has obtained a decision in his favour in the English Court. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. Considerable transactions have taken place in these at Tls. 115 and 116. Industrial.—No business reported in Cotton stocks. Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 112½ and 113½. Shanghai Waterworks at Tls. 430; Green Island Cements \$31½ for July delivery. Langkats. These have remained fairly steady during the week, opening with sales at Tls. 268 and 269 for cash, receding to Tls. 267½, at which rate there are buyers. March shares have been placed at Tls. 274, 271, 272 and 267½ with sales for June at Tls. 280. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 72½ and 73. Stores & Hotels.—Moutries have been placed at \$55; Lane and Crawford \$130. Hall & Holtz \$22 and 22½. Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 21; Astor House at \$31 and \$32, and Central Hotel new at \$7½. Miscellaneous.—Telephones remain at Tls. 68, and China Import and Export Lumber Co. at Tls. 110. Loans and Debentures.—No business reported.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to this, 15 cents offering; to north coast Java, several fixtures at 31 to 33 cents per picul; to Philippines, 30 to 32 cents according to size offering; to Japan, 30 cents per picul. From north coast Java to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul has been paid for a medium sized carrier. Several steamers have secured full cargoes, hence to Newchwang, at 40 cents per picul; to Japan, the rate is 11 to 12 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, no demand. Coal freights are weak. From Moji to this, \$1.40 last; to Philippines, \$3½ per ton for two ports.

The following are the settlements:—

Feronia—British steamer, 1,930 tons, Karatzu to Cebu and Iloilo, \$3.50 per ton.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Karatzu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Proteus—Norwegian steamer, 1,024 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Egremont Castle—British steamer, 1,834 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Poschan—German steamer, 1,825 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Kensington—British steamer, 2,247 tons, Saigon to one port Japan, 32 cents per picul.

Quinta—German steamer, 987 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 33 cents per picul.

Derwent—British steamer, 1,309 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java (33,000 piculs) 31 cents per picul.

Pranto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, Saigon to one or two ports Philippines, 30 and 32 cents per picul.

Quang Nam—French steamer, 711 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 30 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 731 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 32 cents per picul.

M. Struve—German steamer, 966 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Sourabaya to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.

Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 913 tons, monthly, hence to Newchwang and back, \$6,500 per month.

Peik—Norwegian steamer, 744 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$5,500 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—

ARRIVALS.

- 3, Antenor, British str., from Liverpool.
- 4, Baralong, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Barotse, British str., from London.
- 4, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 4, Dundas, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Hanyang, British str., from Swatow.
- 4, Helena, German str., from Swatow.
- 4, Lisa, Swedish str., from Chinkiang.
- 4, Manila, British str., from Antwerp.
- 4, Nubia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 4, Rajaburi, German str., from Swatow.
- 5, Andromeda, British str., from Weihaiwei.
- 5, Brunhilde, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Caledonien, French str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Clam, British str., from Balik Papan.
- 5, E. Rickmers, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Fooshing, British str., from Hongkong.
- 5, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 5, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 5, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Machaon, British str., from Liverpool.
- 5, Manchuria, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
- 5, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Y'hama.
- 6, Queen Louise, British str., from Moji.
- 6, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Sourabaya.
- 6, Tourane, French str., from Marseilles.
- 6, Tungahing, British str., from Wuhu.
- 6, Wosang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 6, Zweena, British str., from Rangoon.
- 6, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Tientsin, British str., from Bombay.
- 7, Aragonia, German str., from Portland.
- 7, Anchenarden, Brit. str., from K'notzu.
- 7, Benoleuch, British str., from London.
- 7, Eiger, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
- 7, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Hohnstein, German str., from Moji.
- 7, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
- 7, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 7, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Richmond Castle, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Silesia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 8, Alacritty, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Hupeh, British str., from Swatow.
- 8, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Sambia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Store Nordiske, Dan. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Tingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Decima, German str., from Anping.
- 9, Dr. H. J. Klaer, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
- 9, Glenesk, British str., from London.
- 9, Hellas, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 9, Surada, British str., from Rangoon.

March—

DEPARTURES.

- 4, Alesia, German str., for Singapore.
- 4, Antenor, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 4, Chihli, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Dorio, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 4, Fri, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
- 4, Goodwin, British str., for Rangoon.
- 4, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Kensington, British str., for Saigon.
- 4, Medan, German str., for Kobe.
- 4, Signal, German str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Thea, German str., for Moulmain.
- 4, Themis, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 4, Zafro, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Baralong, British str., for London.
- 5, B. Bjornson, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
- 5, Dundas, British str., for Guam.
- 5, Helena, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, K. Elisabeth, Aus'rian str., for Swatow.
- 5, Keemun, British str., for London.
- 5, Queen Cristina, British str., for Rangoon.
- 5, Samsen, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Barotse, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 6, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 6, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Lisa, Swedish str., for Canton.
- 6, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Mathilda, Norwegian str., for Moji.
- 6, Shantung, British str., for Amoy.

- 7, Caledonien, French str., for Europe.
- 7, Clam, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
- 7, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Pundua, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 7, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 7, Tourane, French str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Zoroaster, Brit. str., for Christmas Island.
- 7, Zeena, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Clara Jebben, German str., for Canton.
- 8, Empr. of Japan, British str., for Vancouver.
- 8, Hanyang, British str., for Chefoo.
- 8, Ichang, British str., for Chefoo.
- 8, Kohsichang, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 8, Nubia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Sydney.
- 8, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Macassar.
- 8, Vengeance, British battleship, for home.
- 9, Benoleuch, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 9, Brunhilde, German str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Eiger, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 9, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 9, Quinta, German str., for Swatow.
- 9, Richmond Castle, British str., for N. York.
- 9, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. Proton, F. W. R. Ward Thomas, and Colace Vincenzo; from Shanghai, Mr. M. Pereira, Mrs. Pereira and 2 children, Mr. Beuchot, Mrs. E. Chiter, Messrs. J. H. Laurence, A. V. Bohuszewicz, Kint, E. J. Siqueira, and Madison; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs. Mordelle, Morrison, Keper, Bresson, and Dalbiez; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Sozykin, Mrs. Morita, Messrs. S. C. Sinha, Shunker, Okamoto, Inouye, and Gamamoto; for Bombay, from Yokohama, Mr. C. J. Mehta; from Kobe, Mr. M. J. M. Nauparia; for Port Said, Messrs. Pousan, Ivanoff, Chabardin, Streptoff, Golden, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, Messrs. Sentiabreff, Prigorowski, Mrs. Paul, Messrs. Wengorowski, Stapoura, Mrs. A. Palewskaya, Messrs. Wassa Kovalenkota, A. Pohl, Finin, and 18 Russian soldiers; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Baron Chazal, Messrs. Oka, Mayor, Mouto, Inada, Hirots, Mrs. Brylinski, Messrs. Paul Gartner and T. Matsubara; from Kobe, Mr. David James; from Shanghai, Mr. E. Mariette, Mr. and Mrs. Loup, Messrs. Forot de Praneuf, E. Bradier, A. Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Remion, Mrs. de Hees and child, Mr. and Mrs. Siesickovitch, Mr. Gust Kjellin, Mr. and Mrs. Hamon, Messrs. Le Fellic, Edouard Conod, Bois, Malegeant, Plouquet, Andonin, Berriot, Keinhart, Billard, Ceaux, Le Groumelke, Richet, Penny, Henmann, Chanteloub, Boudet, Bricard, Chamenbaud, Tocanne, Fliouderben, Guntz, Ballicioni, Michel, Dureigne, Tardy, Harra, Le Bars, Bernaert, and Le Gougneo; from Yokohama, Mrs. Deguy and child, Mrs. Duret and child.

Per *Manchuria*, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. D. Ballmore, C. E. Pope, Mrs. M. A. Pope, Miss Lulu Swift, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Woodward and daughter, Miss Mary Vanolain, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Vanolain, Mr. Robt. A. Scott, Lieut. Lloyd Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Green, Mr. Masao Nakai, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Oliphant, Miss R. Mickle, Mrs. Kate R. Swan, Mr. T. Eppstain, Lt.-Comdr. G. Kammerling, U.S.N., Mr. W. R. Gans, Mrs. W. M. Graham and daughter, Mrs. W. P. Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Doering, Mr. C. F. Stowe, Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Nies, Mr. and Mrs. E. Warhount, Col. and Mrs. C. A. Booth, Lieut. E. M. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Bryan, Messrs. H. Campbell, Leo. Menzell, A. H. Perkins, W. T. Roddy, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Lawlor, Messrs. Jos. A. Hooven, R. A. Gubbay, John M. Jacob, Richard Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Barnes, Miss Hilda Canan, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Crowe, Messrs. W. Gordon, Yoshiaki Fujimura, Takashi Tanaka, Miss Mary Lyman, Mrs. H. H. Glover and infant, Mrs. B. Lichtig, Mrs. M. H. Riekey, Mr. J. Irwin, Jr., U.S.N., Rev. and Mrs. J. L. McLaughlin, General W. M. Graham, U.S.A., Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Goodrich, Mrs. E. H. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Ashley, Mr. Volchens, Capt. and

Mrs. J. C. Dow, Messrs. Simon Wahnont, Robt. J. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dick, Messrs. E. M. Lear, J. L. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Jenks, Major and Mrs. F. R. Keefer, and Mr. A. R. Clark.

Per *Prins Sigismund*, from Yokohama, Capt. Middleton, Messrs. G. Butler, W. B. Wilkenson, W. Stevenson, D. Johnson, B. Atkinson, Capt. Hall, Messrs. J. Anderton, T. Sewitzer, J. Langeworthby, A. Holmes, R. Overland, C. Stewart, Shan Sock, Band, Purcell, Furlong, Koff, McGellanday, J. Du, McMenemay, S. Doig, Owen Jones, Walsch, Mason, E. Selley, A. Paton, J. Tencker, Wm. Jeily, J. Stoddart, G. Crnig, R. Meckley, J. Hayan, M. Dunn, McKinley, Turner, S. Yamamoto, Habigan, Cashman, J. Doig, M. Neill, W. Smith, J. Stanley, T. Doubrocky, J. Brown, R. Williams, J. Oliphant, Th. Brown, F. McAulty, J. Topling, T. Slattery, J. Weldon, H. Hozer, A. Pomiger, J. Court, and Sakawa.

Per *Tourane*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. Debrunner, Mrs. Bertrand and child, Messrs. Martin Sanchez and Reyes; from Colombo, Mr. Noor Deen; from Singapore, Messrs. Juan Gil, T. M. Little, J. T. Platts, Tahlanamall, and Khubehand; from Saigon, Mr. A. Abegg; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Marromicalis, Mrs. Rouget, Messrs. Dejean de la Belie and family, Charles, Clandel, Adam, Duprat, Floch, Gardon, Mrs. and Miss Guignard, and Mrs. Chanson; from Colombo, Mrs. Bachsa; from Singapore, Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Donaldson and Schwartzberg and Mrs. Guberstein; from Saigon, Messrs. Moulis and Chapolain, Mrs. Gaustin, Mrs. Steinberg, and Mr. Erlis; for Kobe from Calcutta, Mr. Machard; from Singapore, Messrs. Nishisum and Niyahawa; for Yokohama from Port Said, Mr. Yamada; from Colombo, Mr. Shimay Dan; from Singapore, Messrs. Wilson and Sakida; from Saigon, Messrs. A. de Thorey and N. G. Luyhoo; for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Christensen, Messrs. Portes and Tignol; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Quenedy.

DEPARTED.

Per *Tourane*, for Shanghai, Mrs. John Shelenhamer, Messrs. Deffresnes, B. D. Tata, René Loeb, A. Soanconi, J. C. Cartar, Chapdelaine, Leo Menzel, Wallgreen, and V. Spasso; for Kobe, Messrs. Victor Church, E. Jamal, and C. B. Meheta; for Yokohama, Messrs. Arbutnot Leslie and Daumer.

Per *Caledonien*, for Saigon, Mr. A. Obodovsky; for Singapore, Messrs. J. Nakamaru, Charles Pope, and Mrs. M. A. Pope; for Bombay, Mr. M. M. Mackey; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Warlomont, Mr. and Mrs. Dourdin, Dr. and Mrs. de Beurnmann, and Mrs. Regnaud.

Per *Prins Sigismund*, for New Guinea and Australia, Messrs. C. Legee, dal Abago, J. Anderson, B. Atkinson, G. Butler, G. R. Brown, O. Froehlich, A. Holmes, D. Johnson, J. Langworthby, W. Lehment, G. H. Mobus, K. Overland, W. Pucher, E. Rohrbeck, Capt. Hall, Capt. Middleton, Messrs. M. Schaniawsky, T. Sevtzer, W. Stevenson, C. Stewart, W. B. Wilkinson, and H. Weichert.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, &c., Messrs. J. T. Plummer, W. S. Bailey, T. C. Stafford, G. Dean, G. Winkle, C. W. Hicks, Mrs. T. D. Nutton, Mr. H. C. Sandford, Capt. W. H. Simpson, Col. and Mrs. L. J. Browne, R. E., Misses Browne (2), Messrs. D. H. W. Ritchie, B. Camerson, N. W. Quin, Mr. and Mrs. A. Reiss, Messrs. J. E. Braman, J. M. Coyne, E. D. C. Wolfe, E. B. Halifax, K. Barel, J. S. Rankin, Mrs. Bird and 2 children, Col. J. F. Lewis, Col. and Mrs. Keeper, Mr. W. B. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Lawler and child, Dr. and Mrs. Horne, Mr. V. A. Dodge, Lieut. E. M. Adams, Messrs. J. Lyon, A. Buma, Mrs. L. B. Wall and infant, Mr. L. S. Santos, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Van Bosc, Mr. and Mrs. B. Roth, Mrs. N. Kinnaman, Mr. J. W. Gale, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Hatton, Rev. Hy. Coff, Mr. and Mrs. Olcott, Miss A. V. Fraser, Messrs. E. T. Ocampo, A. G. Ward, Geo. B. Dodwell, Misses Dodwell (2), Messrs. Dowling, A. C. Dias, Wm. Anderson, M. McGregor, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham, Messrs. J. G. Hiddleston, R. Hodgkinson, D. Laing, G. Dangerfield, Mrs. M. Murakami, Mr. A. R. Clark, Mrs. M. S. Neswander, Messrs. W. L. Thompson and A. Johnson.

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